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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Andean Talks Postponement Due to Peru Situation *[Lima EL COMERCIO 11 Apr]* 2

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Speaks at Havana Hospital Annex Opening *[Havana TV]* 3
Commentary on Bush Call To Intensify Blockade *[Havana Radio]* 7
Raul Castro Speaks at People's Councils Meeting *[Havana TV]* 8
Politburo Member Comments on Special Period *[Havana Radio]* 8
Aldana Addresses Seminar *[Havana Radio]* 9
Joint Cuba, Ecuador Commission Meets in Havana *[Havana Radio]* 9
Ecuadoran Congressman Condemns Embargo Tightening *[Havana Radio]* 10
PAHO To Help Develop Pharmaceutical Industry *[Havana Radio]* 10
FAR To Implement Martial Arts Techniques *[Havana Radio]* 10
Havana Province Potato Harvest Yield Increases *[Havana TV]* 10
Cooperation Protocol Signed With Badalona *[Havana Radio]* 11
Canadian Fisheries, Oceans Minister Arrives *[Havana Radio]* 11
Havana To Stock All City Reservoirs With Fish *[Havana Radio]* 11
Correction to Export Possibilities Promoted 11

Haiti

Parliamentarians Seek Solution to Crisis *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 11
Belizaire Sends Belated Invitation To Executive *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Belizaire's Handling of OAS Criticized *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
FNCD Demands Government's 'Peaceful' Overthrow *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

FMLN To Protest Noncompliance With Agreements *[San Salvador TV]* 13
May Not Demobilize *[San Salvador Radio]* 13
Foreign Ministry Sends Protest Note to Nicaragua *[San Salvador Radio]* 13

Guatemala

Government Still Recognizes Fujimori as President *[Panama City ACAN]* 14
Government Denies Fidel Castro Met With Serrano *[PRENSA LIBRE 21 Apr]* 14

Honduras

* Codeh Stresses Human Rights Failures, Abuses *[TIEMPO 20 Mar]* 14

Nicaragua

Salvadoran Fishing Boats Captured; Captain Dies *[Managua Radio]* 15
Sandinist Party Laments Deputy Ramirez' Death *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 20 Apr]* 16
* Government Negotiations With FSLN Criticized *[LA PRENSA 17 Mar]* 16
* FNT Violence, FSLN Attitude Criticized *[LA PRENSA 20 Mar]* 17
* Critical Situation of Peasant Workers Reported *[BARRICADA 12 Mar]* 18
* Current Situation Viewed as Social Explosion *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 18 Mar]* 18

Panama

Endara Seeks Solutions With Colon Authorities *[Panama City TV]* 19
Unemployed Block City Entrance; Wait for Endara *[Panama City Radio]* 19
Paramilitary Group Threatens To Kill Criminals *[CRITICA LIBRE 21 Apr]* 20

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Accuses Media of Campaign To Discredit *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 Apr]* 21
Buenos Aires Newspaper Reveals SIDE Budget *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 Apr]* 21
Bank Releases Second List of Loan Defaulters *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 Apr]* 21

Bolivia

Minister, Official Deny EGTK Torture Charges *[La Paz Radio]* 21
'Climatic Factors' Slow Coca Eradication Rate *[La Paz Radio]* 22

Brazil

Government Bans Aircraft, Weapons Sales to Libya *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Apr]* 22
Collor Interviewed About Reelection, Cuba *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 19 Apr]* 22
Vice President Reaffirms Loyalty to Collor *[Brasilia Radio]* 23

Chile

'First Organized Demonstration' Against Aylwin *[Santiago Radio]* 24

Colombia

Foreign Minister Disavows Ambassador's Actions *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24
Health Minister Criticizes Use of Pesticides *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24

Paraguay

Drug Control Agreement With Venezuela Ratified *[HOY 19 Apr]* 25

Peru

Fujimori Delivers 'Message to Nation' 21 Apr *[Lima Radio/TV]* 25
San Roman Calls Fujimori Speech 'Travesty' *[Madrid EFE]* 28
Fujimori Interviewed About Crisis, OAS Meeting *[Tokyo TV]* 29
Fujimori Meets With OAS Special Delegation *[Lima Radio]* 30
Fujimori Supporters Gather at Government Palace *[Lima Radio]* 30
Fujimori Pleased at Support *[Lima Radio]* 30
Police Disperse Antigovernment Demonstrations *[Lima Radio]* 30
Dissolved Congress Meets To Appoint San Roman *[Lima Radio]* 31
Army Surrounds Building *[Lima Radio]* 31
San Roman Sworn In *[Lima Radio]* 31
Addresses Congress *[Lima Radio]* 31
Urges Military Support *[Madrid EFE]* 32

Struggle on 'Four Fronts' *[Lima Radio]* ... 32
Comments After Ceremony *[Lima TV]* ... 32
Armed Struggle 'Useless' *[AFP]* ... 32
Congress Calls for 'Immediate End' of Fujimori *[Madrid EFE]* ... 33
Shining Path Say Fujimori Regime Is 'Enemy' *[Madrid EFE]* ... 33
Military Stages Operation Against Shining Path *[Madrid EFE]* ... 34
OAS Officials Comment on Progress of Mission *[Lima Radio]* ... 34
Economy Minister's Resignation Confirmed *[Lima TV]* ... 35
Superintendent of Banks, Insurance Resigns *[Lima Radio]* ... 35
Central Reserve Bank Head Denies Resignation *[Lima Radio]* ... 35
Housing, Construction Deputy Ministers Named *[Lima Radio]* ... 36
Government Suspends Import Preferential Tariff *[Lima Radio]* ... 36
Ousted Officials Discuss National Situation *[Lima TV]* ... 36
Labor Groups Issue Communique Condemning Coup *[LA REPUBLICA 10 Apr]* ... 38

Venezuela

Parties Reject Suspension of Ties With Peru *[Madrid EFE]* ... 39
Patrols Increased on Border With Colombia *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* ... 39
Human Rights Secretary Announces Petition Drive *[Caracas TV]* ... 40

Guyana

Drug Cooperation Plan With Venezuela Announced *[CANA]* ... 40

Peru

In a "message to the nation" broadcast by Lima TV and radio, President Alberto Fujimori outlines his schedule to return "full constitutionality" in less than 12 months. Fujimori argues that his government's actions to date have not destroyed democracy but are making way for "a more solid and advanced democracy." With the "unprecedented support" of the people, Fujimori says he will institute a government where the "essence of the true democratic attitude lies in respect and consideration for the popular will." Fujimori says a plebiscite on constitutional reforms and municipal and regional elections will be conducted on 8 November 1992, and elections will be held to form the Congress on 28 February 1993. Fujimori believes that when the international community observes the nature of the measures to be implemented, it will show "the world we never wanted and will never establish a dictatorship in Peru."

First Vice President Maximo San Roman was sworn in by members of the dissolved Congress on 21 April as "constitutional president" of the Republic, Lima radio reports. Following the ceremony, San Roman called on the Armed Forces to "place themselves on the side of the people" and offered them better living conditions and security, Madrid EFE reports. San Roman says Fujimori's address to the nation on 21 April "constituted a travesty for the country" and "confirms his dictatorial spirit."

Lima radio reports that the OAS delegation began meetings on 21 April with numerous prominent people from various political and economic sectors. The delegation, composed of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, states that "all our efforts" are directed at the "full restoration of constitutional order." Baena Soares confirms that OAS representatives will return on a scheduled second visit.

El Salvador

An FMLN delegation has left for New York to register a protest with the UN about the Salvadoran Government's and the Armed Forces' noncompliance with the peace agreements, San Salvador TV reports. FMLN Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, who is among the delegates, says the peace process is "deteriorating" and everything must be done "to overcome the current situation." According to a San Salvador radio report, FMLN Commander Gregorio Pena says the rebels will not demobilize 20 percent of their troops as stipulated in the agreements unless the government fulfills its commitments, including allocating land and housing for the troops and providing survivor benefits.

Cuba

Havana TV carries the Fidel Castro speech at the inauguration of a clinic and hotel annex in Havana.

A commentary broadcast on Havana radio denounces President Bush's remark about isolating the Castro regime. Bush's goals are to "eliminate freedom and democracy in Cuba," and to "subdue it through hunger and destroy it." The commentary concludes: "Bush and his followers expected to see Donald Duck parading along Havana streets by now, but that has not happened. Washington is growing desperate, and Bush is panic-stricken."

Brazil

Responding to government instructions, Brazilians are leaving Libya, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reports. A decree has been published banning the sale or supply of aircraft or weapons to Libya.

In an interview appearing in FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, President Collor says Brazil has definitely been vaccinated against the Fujimori disease. As to Cuba, Collor says, "Fidel Castro is making great efforts. He is making changes inside the party for the coming elections. It is some progress at least."

Andean Talks Postponement Due to Peru Situation

PY2204013692 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Apr 92 p B9

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 10 Apr (EFE)—Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos confirmed today that Colombia and Venezuela have agreed to postpone the Andean countries' Common Foreign Duty (AEC) negotiations while Peru resolves its institutional crisis.

Minister Santos told EFE that the decision does not mean a freezing of Andean countries' trade or a conditioning of agreements already signed, but an attempt to give Peru time to resolve its political situation and make time for multilateral organizations to take a stand on the issue before negotiations continue.

The Andean group includes Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela. The five nations are committed to implementing an integration process leading to a free trade zone, which has been delayed due to disagreements on AEC's.

The Cartagena Accord Commission was scheduled to meet in Lima on 22 April to discuss that and other issues, but that meeting was canceled for the same reasons.

Minister Santos stressed that the Colombian-Venezuelan decision does not mean that Andean countries' trade will stop. The decision does not imply economic sanctions against Peru, simply a postponement of negotiations, Santos concluded.

Cuba

Castro Speaks at Havana Hospital Annex Opening

FL2104145592 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the inauguration of a clinic and hotel annex at the Frank Pais Orthopedic Hospital in Havana on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: This is why I do not allow myself to be caught easily [laughter] with invitations to all of these ceremonies, which we have so many of in the country each day—inaugurations, I mean. But, well, here I am. What can I say to complement the words of Comrade [hospital] Director Dr. Alvarez Cambras? I can add a few ideas, explain certain things.

Well, first I am going to talk about Aladdin's lamp. I hope there is an end to Aladdin's lamp [laughter] so far as building goes—but not regarding innovations and new contributions—because, for example, we did not have to build anything to introduce percutaneous (?discectomy), which is a truly revolutionary treatment of hip problems.

Investments did have to be made. Yes, something had to be invested. We had to coordinate things. We had to, above all, negotiate, or not exactly negotiate. Actually the French, and the inventor of this technique, have behaved wonderfully, in a friendly, generous, cooperative manner; and it has been easy to reach an agreement with them about their technique; and of course, with the payment of a royalty [preceding word in English].

We Cubans always treat decent people decently. I am of course talking about decent people who deal with us. There are decent people who, out of fear, do not deal with us. Well, such people are already not so decent, and [chuckles] we are therefore not morally obligated to treat such people so decently.

I was thinking—I do not know if I should say it—but, well, these things will be among the few things that will not be copied. Because I mean the Third World has to copy. Not only has the Third World copied, but the so-called capitalist world has done a great deal of copying. It is said that certain very highly developed nations have accomplished nearly everything they have done by copying. It is natural that we would not be able to invent everything anew. We often know that work is being done in one direction, and we ourselves set to work in that direction as well. We often know that something has been achieved, and we set to work to try to achieve the same thing. That often happens.

Many times we achieve something new in a different domain. I am not talking only about medicine here. I am referring to the field of research and science in general. However, we also need to use everything useful thing there is in the world, and when we are embargoed, and there is an attempt to prevent our having access to technologies, we also have to try to open a path for ourselves in one way or another, and use our people's talent to be able to benefit from that common legacy of human intelligence.

So, as this matter of percutaneous (?discectomy) shows, there is room in that field for us to do a lot of things, every year; for us to make great strides, not only by building new installations, but by using the existing installations. The hospital should be increasingly modernized based on technology, the results of its research, and the application of research conducted in other countries, such as in the very case we are seeing here. That is going to be the great path. In that regard, I think that the [word indistinct] is going to be a survey of the new things that have been introduced at the hospital.

I believe we must maintain what we have. That is very important. I was noticing this theater. It looks terrific. I feel we must maintain this installation. I have not seen the apartment-hotel, but we must maintain it. We must also maintain the hospital installations. Every time I visit the hospital, I take careful notice of everything: the condition of the roof, the air conditioner—in short, the current conditions, because we have a shortage of resources.

I was very worried over a mistake we made—having built an excellent building, we installed some elevators not of the quality required. It appears that, at some point, elevators were purchased for several different hospitals from certain countries that I do not want to name here to avoid causing anyone to lose prestige. [chuckles] I do want to say that the elevators are not Soviet elevators. [laughter] They come from other countries. I would not like anyone to think....[pauses] No, not only the Soviets produced bad elevators. I can tell you that there are Western capitalist countries that produce really bad elevators. I can tell you that.

Well, some of the elevators we had here were [words indistinct] and others are semi-Western. Nevertheless, we did make the big investment and, in the expansions we inaugurated the last time, things as essential as elevators were bad. We are of course correcting that. The appropriate elevators for the hospital have been purchased and are being installed. We have to watch out with all these things—what works, what does not work.

A battle was waged to complete these projects, which had been delayed a long time. The rectification process was begun. During the rectification process, we accelerated all the projects. We created a contingent and finished the work on the hospital. So now the hospital must be given proper maintenance always, and its equipment and technology continuously modernized. That is the path we must take, because we already not only...[pauses] if we want to obtain more, not only would we need Aladdin's lamp, but also Genghis Khan's army... [laughter] I mean, in order to occupy new territory [chuckles] because there is no more room in which to expand here.

Of course, there is a neighborhood near here, a neighborhood that is not too rich. Well, we had to move some

of the residents, but they were happy about it because better housing was built for them. Because there was a semi-indigent neighborhood nearby. If we wanted to and if a great need were to arise—although I do not foresee such a need at this time—we could always look for space, but it is no longer so easy to build . ew buildings. I do not know what they are using the famous school for. It had to be built anew. When the hospital was expanded, there was a primary school almost inside the hospital. A new school was built. What was done, finally, with the installations of the....

[Unidentified speaker] The school is in the factory of [words indistinct].

[Castro] Yes.

[Unidentified speaker] The other is in the center for [words indistinct].

[Castro] So you also made it into a factory, and a laboratory and all that? Are you using all the installations?

[Unidentified speaker] The other one is in [words indistinct]. The other one is in the [words indistinct].

[Castro] Oh, good. I am glad.

[Unidentified speaker] The other one is in the vicinity of the [words indistinct].

[Castro] So they put it to good use?

[Unidentified speaker] They put it to good use [words indistinct]

[Castro] Of course now, as was explained here, that apartment-hotel was not anybody's idea actually. We were building a number of tall buildings in the city. I realized that this building was on the hospital grounds, this 12-story building, right? It had been under construction for some time, and I felt the best use to which it could be put would be to make it into housing for the workers, and that was the purpose assigned to it. A solution was sought via the minibrigades. Some of the apartments were to be state property. Others were going to be for those who were building them. A solution was sought, and the entire building was left for the hospital.

What is perhaps the most beautiful thing about all this, however, and the most encouraging, is that if there is today an apartment-hotel here which expands the hospital's options and improves its services, it is thanks to the workers who chose to have the building used for hospital facilities or the equivalent. Because it so happened that many people, especially foreigners, would come from thousands of kilometers away, and as orthopedic treatments sometimes take months, long periods of time, and those patients were taking up the hospital beds for all that time, earmarking this building for hospital services frees up a huge number of beds. There are many patients for whom it is not even good, psychologically, to remain in the hospital and who are ready to be moved to some kind of residence so that all their treatments and rehabilitation therapies can be continued. Thus, by inaugurating this apartment-hotel, we are also inaugurating a lot of beds within the hospital that were being occupied by patients.

Of course the relatives also had trouble. Not all patients come with relatives, but for a relative to have the opportunity to lodge in the immediate vicinity of the hospital is also a great advantage. That is why it can be said that this hospital complex is greatly enriched by this facility that is being inaugurated. I also think the international clinic has been a very good idea, right? For international services.

I must explain to you that this is an attempt to meet a need that is not easy to meet—that is, the growing requests for medical services that our country receives. It is a known fact that our country takes care of many people who do not have a single centavo, who do not have the means to have a medical problem treated. Our country has been generous in that and will always continue to bear in mind, with humaneness, the dramatic situations of people whose only salvation might be through help from our country. But there are also many people from Latin America and elsewhere who go to the United States and pay huge sums of money and yet do not get the medical services that are provided in our country. There are many people who can pay for such medical services abroad. So that is what we are referring to when we speak of health care tourism. We mean those cases of people who pay for the medical services.

So the demand for paid medical services is increasing greatly. I can tell you, for example, that regarding retinitis pigmentosa, the nation's capabilities cannot meet the demand for services. A new hospital has been adapted to that end...[pauses] or an old hospital has been modernized. It is the former Camilo Cienfuegos Hospital. It may be that in a while, even those services ... [pauses] those capabilities will not suffice.

Not long ago, the neurotransplant and nerve rehabilitation service was expanded by more than 120 beds. Of course, both Cuban patients and foreign patients are treated there. But the foreign demand is so great that that facility is at full capacity, and we are inventing, seeking formulas and solutions to see how to meet the demand. There is also a growing demand for orthopedic services, and in like manner, the demand is increasing in many fields of medicine.

We have been living through a special period, and we have asked ourselves what we can do to continue our progress in medicine, to prevent our medical development from stopping, and what new goals, new objectives, we can achieve. For many hospitals, for some of these facilities, we have established the principle of trying to get them to pay their own way, in hard currency. We do not insist upon it 100 percent.

Some can obtain more, and they can help others, but our hospital system needs to generate a certain amount of

income because the cost of our hospital services is really very high, the cost of equipment, the cost of maintaining the equipment, the cost of the medicines, despite the efforts we make and are making to develop our pharmaceutical industry and to produce new medicines. It is extremely costly, and it would be exceedingly difficult for the country to maintain those services. So we have been promoting it in many hospital establishments. We have said that to a number of different hospitals in a better position to do this, including new hospitals. We have told the Villa Clara Hospital they could earmark some 200 or 300 (?out of their 900) new beds to health care tourism.

We say to the comrades in Santiago de Cuba: You have an extremely modern new hospital, you have almost 1,000 beds, and 200 or 300 beds can be earmarked for health care tourism. Thus we have been trying, wherever the necessary conditions exist, to encourage the idea of having those institutions generate income to cover their costs. We have also told the CIMEQ [Center for Medical-Surgical Research] this: You must try to generate income to cover costs. Thus, this is one of the ways by which we can maintain the rate of development of our medicine under the conditions of the special period.

It is very important to explain that, because it has become a vital issue to our medical facilities and to the medical services we provide for our people because, actually, it could be proven that a hotel produces more income than any hospital in that a hospital may possibly cost three or four times per room what a hotel does. Hospitals are very expensive, because of all the construction and all the specialized facilities. It would not be good business as such, it would not be a better business move to build hospitals rather than hotel rooms, as a business. Even a single hospital is a much more complex matter and requires far more specialized personnel and far more people.

But in any case, within our capabilities, with the facilities we already have, it is possible for our hospitals to produce at least some income. Now, the fact that these housing units I was talking about have been made into an excellent apartment-hotel—which I have not yet seen, but which according to what I have heard here, is very nice—shows that all kinds of things can be done. That housing, rebuilt, remodeled, suitably equipped, can become a hotel. I also say that at certain times, a hotel can turn into a hospital. Because, well, also, under certain circumstances, if there is a very great demand for a particular service—looking not just at the commercial aspect of the matter, but also from the point of view of humaneness—certain things can be turned into other things.

For example, we have built a new technological school, siting it where it ought to be be sited: next to the Food Industry Research Center. It has been under construction for a while and is being finished up now. It will be finished within the next few months. Now, we have freed up an academic establishment that has excellent conditions, and it can be converted into a research center or a center for important medical services. Indeed, we are already doing that, in view of the increasing demand.

I am going to cite another example, from the time that the collapse that was mentioned here took place. There used to be a school here where languages were taught, languages that today appear a bit exotic. Our young people studied there. It was not a bad idea. Some studied Czech, others German, others Hungarian, others Russian. Suddenly, we noticed this enormous building, which had in the past been a well-built school, one of the upper middle class's best schools. We began remodeling that building a few months ago, and now there is already a scientific research center installed there, and within a few months, there will be another. There will be two scientific research centers in that building.

We can give the example of the school for economic management cadres. We streamlined it. We put it together with the political school of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, the national school. We freed up those buildings, and that is where the School of Pharmacy is now located.

It is a new school, but it is not really a new school, but rather a great expansion of the one that already existed on the university campus. There are hundreds of students who are very happy and are carrying out their pharmaceutical studies under very good conditions, training as cadres who will support the great development of our pharmaceutical industry. We will not always be building new facilities, but we will be using the existing ones and streamlining them. Without having to build, we are creating all kinds of new institutions. That is what we should be doing under these circumstances.

We are demonstrating that even in the special period we can continue to develop our medical system. We are also demonstrating that in the special period we are developing our sciences more than ever. This has great importance. I do not know if everyone understands how important this is. It is very useful, not only in the economic sense, but in the human sense as well. We have proof of it every day. For example, we now know that the cholera epidemic (?has arrived) in this hemisphere. No one knows when cholera will disappear from this hemisphere. Our research centers are working very hard to develop an effective vaccine against cholera.

They are working on other types of vaccines, many vaccines. Some of them already exist, and others do not exist. Just look at the importance of this activity. I will give you another example, which is quite dramatic—meningitis. There was type B in the country. There were vaccines for types A and C, but there was no vaccine for type B in the whole world. There was none then and there is none today, except for the Cuban vaccine. It has passed all tests successfully, not only in Cuba but in many places.

The number of cases or the incidence of meningitis type B was very high, and it was increasing. It was the terror of the family. Whenever a mother, grandmother, uncle, or brother saw a child with some illness, the first thing they thought about was the possibility of a sickness of that type. It was the terror of the family. The vaccine was developed, and today we practically have meningitis type B controlled. We have it controlled. The incidence was almost 14 out of every 100,000. With the vaccination program we have practically eradicated that sickness. We still have not eradicated all meningitis.

There is another type of meningitis that is called hemophilic influenza [hemofilo influensae], I think. It is as aggressive or more aggressive than the other one. When the other one disappeared, this one remained. It is true that the incidence is lower, but it has tended to increase. It is a phenomenon. That type of sickness is terrible. It takes hold almost all of a sudden, in just a matter of hours. It needs to be diagnosed as soon as possible. The appropriate treatment needs to be applied. It could arise in the capital, in the eastern provinces, or in any other place. We need a good understanding of that sickness and of the technique to treat it.

But we have seen it increase in the last five-year period. We have observed a high mortality rate. Therefore, it requires our attention. The Carlos J. Finlay Institute is working on a vaccine against hemophilic influenzae meningitis. They have solid reasons to hope they will find an effective vaccine. It is hard and complex. Such a bacteria attacks, above all, newborn babies and small children only months old. It attacks children at a very early age.

They are studying everything that has to do with that illness. They have already done important research. They have made considerable progress. It is possible that before they obtain a vaccine, they may already find an effective medication. That is, a....[pauses] What is it called?

[Unidentified speaker] "Immunoglobulin."

[Castro] What is it? Immunoglobulin. There is a specific immunoglobulin against meningitis type B, for example. You know, it is possible by simply vaccinating adults and later drawing blood from them. Then that blood, which has antibodies, a high number of antibodies against that illness, is used to make a medication. If you come across a child who has a case of meningitis type B, you apply that specific immunoglobulin.

Well, to give you an idea of the results obtained, in cases where children had six adverse factors—that is medical terminology, factors which worked against the children's recovery—only 20 percent recovered. With the application of that specific immunogloblin, the recovery rate increased to approximately 90 percent. That is with the six adverse factors.

This means that not only do we have a vaccine to prevent the illness, but with the vaccine and our scientists, we can develop a product to fight the illness. They think that they are going to achieve, as part of...[pauses] at a certain point in the production process of the vaccine, they will achieve a certain capability to produce medicines against this illness, the hemophilic meningitis bacteria, medicines to fight it even before they have obtained a vaccine.

These are not simple problems, because the highest rate is among infants. Sometimes it strikes only a few days after birth. Scientists are also thinking of the possibility, or the possible appropriateness in certain areas, of using a product on pregnant women that increases the number of antibodies in the body of the child. That way, when the child is born, he has a certain survival period before the vaccine can be used. They are studying all the angles and aspects. This is an illness that attacks very young children. We could say that it is another scourge, another plague, and another terror.

You can imagine how a family feels when they receive news that a child, a member of the family, has that illness. But today we have a resource. We already know how to combat that illness. We already know what the doctors or pediatricians who are going to handle the cases should know. We know what they should know. We already know how it should be diagnosed as soon as possible. We know what elements should be used in that diagnosis to guarantee it. We know what medications we should use. Intaglobin, for example, is being used.

Intaglobin is being produced here. The demand is high because there are doctors who want to use intaglobin for the flu. Intaglobin must be used in cases such as the one I am referring to. Intaglobin is frequently used in pediatric intensive therapies. Now we are studying ways to increase the amount of intaglobin because it depends on the amount of donations we receive. We are looking for ways to be able to have a larger supply of that product. But, we already know what treatment needs to be given, and we are working very hard, very hard, to find a solution.

Now, I can say without hesitation that I believe that in no other country are steps taken as fast, as urgently, and with as high a priority as in our country to solve such problems. The response of our scientists has been extraordinary as they seek solutions to the problems. I have given you these examples to underscore the importance of scientific research and innovations, and where our path lies, in the midst of difficult conditions, in order to continue to develop our health care system and our medical system. We do not lack personnel. That is something we all know. We have more than 20,000—and I am giving you a conservative figure—medical students in our universities. By the end of the year, we will have how many doctors...Teja? [words indistinct] 46,000 doctors, between 45,000 and 46,000 doctors by the end of the year. (?So we have the personnel), the auxiliary personnel, who have university degrees. Nurses now enroll after completing secondary school, to study five years in the medical schools to become nurses. We can

constantly improve the capabilities of our personnel, and thus improve the health care services.

We can intensify our efforts in the research field. As Alvarez Cambra said, this hospital belongs to the scientific pole of western Havana. That has been another very important step: associating all these institutions that are developing rapidly and getting them to mutually support one another. We cannot imagine what we can achieve from the cooperation among all these institutions. That is something capitalist society does not and can not have. In capitalist society, all such institutions generally depend on individuals, on private businesses. They are in competition. They are at war with one another. In our case, we can unite in one pole all these institutions and they can give one anther great support, which multiplies the potential of all these institutions.

Among the most prestigious institutions of this scientific pole is precisely the Frank Pais Hospital. It is the founder of this institution, which we first began to situate geographically. In this area there was a group of hospitals. Later there was a group of research centers. We have already grouped them basically by the criteria of whether they have to do with biology, biotechnology, or medicine. We have grouped all such things together in a very strong movement. I believe that the presence of the Frank Pais Hospital in that scientific pole is one of the pillars of that movement.

This hospital has great momentum. This hospital has not only won prestige for its service to the country, but also for its international services. This hospital has many examples of internationalist comrades, brave comrades. Many of the workers in this center have fulfilled internationalist missions, and on occasion have had to behave in heroic ways. We can remember well that when the famous Iraq war broke out, our cooperation workers were there providing their services, free. That had been going on for many years. It started as a paid service.

When wars began to break out in that region, as a moral issue we did not want to charge them for the services of our medical personnel in the midst of war. So our (?doctors) there had been providing free service for more than 10 years. When war became imminent, everybody left. We saw it as an ethical problem. How, in the midst of war, or on the eve of a war's outbreak, when doctors are needed the most, can the doctors leave? On their own, our doctors took the attitude of not leaving in time of danger. We supported the position of our doctors, which seemed very brave and noble to us. Many of them were from this hospital, right? Almost 50 percent [words indistinct].

With that I want to point out that this hospital has won great scientific prestige, great prestige because of the service it has provided to this country, and for the services it has provided in many countries. We truly feel great satisfaction to be able to have such an institution in our nation, to have such a group of workers like you. But as Alvarez Cambra said, this is no reason for us to boast or to rest on our laurels, but rather it is a reason for us to commit ourselves not only to maintaining this historic record and prestige, but also to enriching and increasing it.

Therefore, with inaugurations or without inaugurations, with Aladdin's lamps or without Aladdin's lamps, with Genghis Khan's army or without Genghis Khan's army, the Frank Pais Hospital will continue forward and will continue to become a better institution. It will continue to become a more scientific, prestigious, revolutionary, socialist, and communist center. [applause] Because only with the spirit of revolutionaries, only with the spirit of communists, is it possible to do the things that you have done, or possible to accomplish the heroic deeds that you have accomplished.

Therefore, I join the chorus of those who are congratulating the Frank Pais Hospital today. I join the chorus of those who remember the historic date of 17 April. I join the chorus of those who feel a special satisfaction in seeing how we honor our martyrs with acts, not with words, how we honor our martyrs with a revolutionary project, which is ever more revolutionary, with a patriotic spirit that is ever more patriotic. I am completely convinced that this institution will continue to develop. I am sure that maybe on another occasion—I am beginning to give way [laughter]—on some other occasion I will return [words indistinct] with you. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] Socialism or Death!

[Castro] Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Commentary on Bush Call To Intensify Blockade

PA2104233292 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Edwin Cabrera commentary]

[Text] My government will keep pressuring governments throughout the world about the need to isolate the Castro regime economically; together we will bring a new era of freedom and democracy to Cuba. Any person with average good sense, who heard the previous statement, would certainly think it is not political language, but political science fiction.

It is a very real statement made by U.S. President George Bush, who on 18 April issued a document calling for intensification of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade against the Cuban people imposed 30 years ago.

Bush's proposed measures include banning vessels trading with Cuba from docking at U.S. ports. The President's statements come as no surprise to Cubans who have grown used to White House cannibalism. They detect the obvious falsehood hidden behind the words, bringing a new era of freedom and democracy to the island.

Bush's goals are very clear and the exact opposite of what he is saying: Eliminate freedom and democracy in Cuba. This is consistent with the history of the Washington-Havana relationship throughout this century. George

Bush's goals are to isolate Cuba politically and economically, subdue it through hunger, and destroy it.

It is important to note that although the world is getting used to seeing ever increasing displays of arrogance by the United States, its government is nevertheless pressuring and demanding, with impunity, that other governments join its efforts to drown Cuba.

Washington is not satisfied with the near absolute imposition of its will on the United Nations and other international organizations. It also wants to decide what other nations may and may not do.

How will other governments react to George Bush's call? As recent history has shown, their reply will depend on their courage, dignity, self-respect, and respect for Cuban sovereignty.

President Bush's actions are part of a U.S. plan to dominate—which has been denounced—rooted in its lack of regard for others and especially its unhealthy preoccupation with destroying Cuba, especially now that it is not seeing the results it expected on the island after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dismantling of the former USSR.

Bush and his followers expected to see Donald Duck parading along Havana streets by now, but that has not happened. Washington is growing desperate and Bush is panic-stricken.

Raul Castro Speaks at People's Councils Meeting

FL2204022392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], presided at the fourth meeting of presidents of the People's Councils in Cienfuegos Province. The meeting was held at the Antonio Sanchez Agro-Industrial Complex, headquarters for one of the 46 such organizations currently operating in Cienfuegos Province.

In a preliminary explanation, the participants were told that almost half of the province's population participates in rural People's Councils through their districts. The active participation of the masses in solving their own problems at the council level reflects the autoconsumption behavior, the production of native materials in popular articles, the operation of services to the population, and production and defense tasks.

[Begin Castro recording] The fundamental objective here is to come to learn, take with you the new experiences that undoubtably have been developed here. That is why we made an effort to bring representatives, two or three, at least, from each one of the provinces in the country, including some first secretaries from municipalities. [end recording]

Several People's Council presidents made comments about their experiences characterized by the potential of government management at the grass-roots level and the indispensable cooperation of distinct community factors, together with the initiative and creativity of the masses in finding solutions to the problems caused by the special period. The meeting was an exchange of experiences between guests from the different provinces on work being carried out in each province by the People's Councils. Particular emphasis was made on how the organizations have created conditions to reduce, simplify, or eliminate the amount of transactions that force people to move to municipal or provincial centers. The speakers concurred by pointing out that the measures tend to localize a group of daily measures in the council and eliminating the just irritation of the people. It also eliminates other inconveniences such as transportation and absenteeism.

[Begin Castro recording] In order to repair a pair of shoes in any mountain village, one had to go to the municipal center. To eat bread, it had to be brought from the municipal center. That is the way it was. If the People's Councils do not exist, how are we going to solve these problems? But when we calmly assess the situation, we have the hope that the National Assembly, as the supreme body of state power, this time supported by the masses, by the councils, and the various political and administrative levels of the country, might move ahead in this important task. We will be surprised if, ultimately, we achieve a synthesis of what this represents from an economic point of view, of irritation, of time, of a million factors. [end recording]

Summarizing the meeting, PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura said that there are close to 900 rural People's Councils functioning in the country whose primary accomplishments were to involve the masses more in the decisionmaking and solution process, to give more power to the grass-roots leaders, and a greater autonomy in solving the problems of the community with their own resources. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Revolutionary Armed Forces minister addressed the neighbors of the People's Council.

[Begin Castro recording] We want to tell you, all the Cienfuegos Province citizens, and especially on this occasion, on behalf of all my companions our most sincere congratulations and a warm hug from Comrade Fidel and all of us. [end recording]

Politburo Member Comments on Special Period

PA2204032092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Pedro Otero]

[Text] Carlos Aldana, member of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Politburo, recently held a lively dialogue with 200 delegates from 27 countries participating in the first Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity With Cuba Meeting in Caimito, 40 km west of Havana.

In his conversation with meeting participants the party leader gave a detailed analysis of the current Cuban international situation and replied to questions posed by Cuban friendship groups' representatives.

[Begin Aldana recording] I assume you know the conditions, characteristics, and outline of what we call the special period. The solutions, options, and actions implemented to tackle our problems were not made up as we went along, but were foreseen by the country's leadership in the early 1980's.

We never foresaw the predicament we face now, but we did consider the possibility of a total U.S. blockade as preamble to an attack or large-scale aggression. As part of our new defense doctrine, of our war doctrine, involving the participation of all the people, we had contemplated the idea of a special period that we called special wartime period. [end recording]

Carlos Aldana described the Cuban people's and government's efforts during the current special period to maintain the revolution without interfering with the country's development. He said the goal is to differentiate between subjective and objective factors to determine which are the result of inefficiency, negligence, and lack of organization on the part of the administration.

[Begin Aldana recording] We were involved in those efforts at a time when economic considerations were being given precedence. Then this catastrophe occurred as we tried to rid ourselves of all those things that seemed incompatible with our concept of socialism, in the areas of production management, management, and economic planning. I believe you have received concrete explanations of the catastrophe's economic aspects.

Although we were as sincere, open, and clear as possible with our people about mistakes during the adjustment period, it is not infrequent that criticism of those mistakes and our efforts to overcome internal problems are confused with the objective factors that constitute the true core of our plight.

In a country such as ours where state-owned property is the norm, where there is a popular economy, and where the state's actions affect the entire society, the role of subjective factors is multiplied several times, and the mistakes made at the various levels of political leadership, mid-level leadership, and rank and file structures have immediate and far-reaching repercussions.

Now, when objective considerations are determining factors, subjective mistakes are much more harmful. That is why we always aim to prevent confusion; to understand the reason behind a situation in objective terms; to understand the reasons behind a shortage; why is this or that in a precarious state? In objective terms, we are trying to maintain the struggle against certain things: negligence, inconsistency, and incompetence, that only add to our problems in subjective terms, at the organizational level and leadership of real economic and social processes. [end recording]

The man in charge of the PCC Politburo's ideology and international affairs gave a detailed description of what resistance consists of, what it really means.

[Begin Aldana recording] We must necessarily create in our people a resistance consciousness that should lead to a culture of resistance. It is decisive for us to resist at this time. Political will and social development must be inseparable parts of that resistance culture. In other words, the resistance culture seeks to eradicate poverty. Resisting during this difficult time means overcoming the difficulties and leaving them behind.

When we talk about survival we do not believe the current situation will continue indefinitely; we want to find ways to overcome it. The concept of resistance has a political connotation, even an international connotation, because our adversaries and enemies are now betting on our collapse. Only after they are convinced that there will be no such collapse can such perceptions of Cuba change. [end recording]

Aldana Addresses Seminar

FL2104140692 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Politburo member Carlos Aldana has stressed the importance of sociopolitical studies in making recommendations to each province's political leadership entities. The party leader spoke at the closing ceremony of a methodology seminar for provincial and municipal sociopolitical studies and opinion groups.

Aldana stressed how effective an instrument the work being done by the 176 pollsters and 82 members of the multidisciplinary groups is in Matanzas Province, where the ceremony was held. The groups are composed of sociologists, psychologists, historians, jurists, and representatives of other disciplines.

Joint Cuba, Ecuador Commission Meets in Havana

PA2204020492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Nancy Lopez]

[Text] On 20 April, the joint intergovernmental Cuba-Ecuador Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation meeting began in Havana.

According to Manuel Gutierrez, first vice minister of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, the launching of the joint meeting means a strengthening of the close ties between countries in such areas as public health and sports, and also the possibility of extending cooperation to cover other areas.

Foreign Vice Minister Mario Aleman, who heads the Ecuadoran delegation, pointed out that Latin America can only confront the current world changes through integration and unity. Mr. Aleman emphasized the

importance of the relations between Ecuador and Cuba, and the significance of this type of meeting.

In statements to the press, Vice Minister Aleman alluded to Ecuador's interest in the current bilateral cooperation meeting.

[Begin Aleman recording] This joint commission is very important to Ecuador. Our objective is to obtain Cuba's assistance in such areas as public health in the crisis we are currently facing with the housing [word indistinct] problem in the Ecuadoran coastal region. There are several other possibilities for cooperation in sectors such as health, agriculture, science and technology, trade exchange, and other [words indistinct] that will allow joint programs between both countries. [end recording]

When asked what Ecuador could provide to Cuba, the Ecuadoran foreign minister stated as follows:

[Begin Aleman recording] Cuba is interested in cooperating with Ecuador in areas such as energy and banana cultivation. In that respect, we are currently making the necessary consultations with the appropriate Cuban state institutions to provide the necessary cooperation. [end recording]

Mr. Aleman also referred to other objectives of his visit to Cuba:

[Begin Aleman recording] At the foreign relations level, we intend to formalize an agreement with respect to [words indistinct] the Cuban and Ecuadoran foreign vice ministers that will examine all areas of bilateral relations. We are [words indistinct] the Cuban people and we expect that in this manner Latin America will be able to progress in harmony depending on the interests of each country [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The joint intergovernmental Cuba-Ecuador Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation meeting is scheduled to conclude on 23 April with the signing of a final protocol.

Ecuadoran Congressman Condemns Embargo Tightening

FL2204104892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Today, Manuel Salgado, interim president of the Ecuadoran Congress, strongly condemned President Bush's decision to prohibit the entry into U.S. ports of any ship trading with Cuba. Salgado said, verbatim: The decision shows that U.S. governing circles have not modified in the least their imperial policies which dream of an unipolar world rooted in subjugation and slavery. The Ecuadoran official said that for 33 years, several U.S. administrations, under the pretext of a confrontation with the socialist bloc, have implemented against Cuba a policy of embargo, terrorist aggressions, pressures, and blackmail, trying in this manner to isolate, [word indistinct] and topple the Cuban Government and people. All sensible and honorable men in the world know that Cuba's strength lies in the unity of its people. The Ecuadoran congressman also demanded that the international community intensify its campaign of solidarity with Cuba as a symbol of a nation that is fighting for its freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

PAHO To Help Develop Pharmaceutical Industry

FL2104221592 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1958 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] (Miller Markes), the Pan-American Health Organization [PAHO] representative in Cuba, has affirmed that the PAHO will administer programs to aid in the development of Cuba's pharmaceutical industry. (Markes), who is attending a workshop being held in Havana on the increase of medicine technology, affirmed that the PAHO will allocate grants to Cuban researchers so they can increase their knowledge in countries where there is an advanced knowledge of this complex industry.

The official indicated that more scientific exchanges with Latin American institutions will be provided for in order to consolidate that front, which in the region depends almost exclusively on large medical conglomerates. Mario Fuji, chemical synthesis expert from a Brazilian technical development company, (?Coratext), who attended the conference workshop, said that Cuba is capable of handling the complete pharmaceutical industry process.

FAR To Implement Martial Arts Techniques

FL2104221792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1942 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The first short course conducted on the new self-defense and attack system which will be implemented throughout the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] beginning in September, concluded at a large tank unit of the Central Army. The event was attended by the chiefs of small units, specialists, and physical education trainers who conducted the final test with practical demonstrations of the skills learned. The exercises included combat combinations of several martial arts techniques using rifles, pistols, and knives, where every combatant selected their own plan of action.

Lieutenant Colonel Fidel Fonseca, a physical education specialist at the FAR General Antonio Maceo Interservice School, urged the soldiers to maintain at their units the same motivation and courage exhibited during the arduous training.

Havana Province Potato Harvest Yield Increases

FL2204000092 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Havana Province has virtually concluded the potato harvest. The few remaining potatoes are being bagged so that not a single potato is left uncollected. According to the latest statistics, 2.5 million quintals

were harvested; a higher figure than last year's even though 100 less caballerias were planted.

It became evident that the enterprises are organized and that the mobilization of workers and contingents for 15 days was effective, including the production carried out by cooperatives and the farming sector.

According to preliminary results, higher yields were obtained from the Guira de Melena and Melena del Sur Miscellaneous Crop Enterprises with more than 6,000 quintals per caballeria. In addition to the potato harvest, we can talk about their cold storage There are more this year, which will permit the population to be supplied throughout a great part of the year.

The potato harvest is concluding but even so, Havana residents will continue to receive tomatoes, cabbage, and carrots among other wintertime crops.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Badalona

FL2104221892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1956 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Havana City and the town council of Badalona, Spain, have signed an economic cooperation protocol at the end of the visit by the Catalonian delegation to Cuba. The agreement establishes the creation of ties in the technical sphere to develop an informational and economic program. The Cuban-Catalonian Friendship House, with the support of the town council of Badalona, will increase its efforts to collect potentially useful items at the city's motor pool. The Catalonian visitors also announced their plan to permanently maintain a container to collect miscellaneous items to be donated to Cuba.

Pedro Chavez, president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, thanked the Spaniards for their support and Badalona residents for volunteering to house Cuban athletes participating in the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Canadian Fisheries, Oceans Minister Arrives

FL2104132792 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Canadian Fisheries and Oceans Minister John Crosbie has arrived in Havana to examine topics of interest to Canada and Cuba, as well as other topics of an international nature. Among the topics to be discussed are international fishing, the protection of the living resources of oceans, and matters having to do with bilateral relations.

Havana To Stock All City Reservoirs With Fish

FL2104165392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1406 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] (Roberto Hidalgo), a member of the provincial bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, has stated that in May all the reservoirs and mini-reservoirs in Havana City Province in which freshwater fish can be raised are to be stocked with fry. The party leader stressed that this is an attempt to make maximum use of the waters available with a view to an intensive development of fish farming in the province, and to increase the population's capacity to supply itself with food.

He said that experts from the National Aquiculture Enterprise and other institutions are finishing up a study aimed at identifying which reservoirs are unpolluted and meet the requirements for fish farming. As part of a research project being carried out by National Aquiculture Enterprise experts, (?colosoma)—a fish that is a good size, commercially—is to be introduced into the capital, in addition to tilapia. The new fish is native to America and is also known as "freshwater pork."

Correction to Export Possibilities Promoted

WA2104180792

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Investment Possibilities Promoted at Exhibitions," published in the 20 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 4:

Column one, paragraph three, sentence one, make read: ...For the first time, the largest of the Antilles Islands [Cuba] will have displays... (rewording)

Same paragraph, sentence two, make read:... Meanwhile, in Italy, another fair with Cuban participation is also scheduled... (clearing indistinct words)

Paragraph four, sentence one, make read:...has already been inaugurated. An exhibit is... (rewording)

Same paragraph, sentence two, make read:... while in March, Cuban export products were displayed at the third international... (clearing indistinct words)

Haiti

Parliamentarians Seek Solution to Crisis

FL2104185592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1300 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The OAS has solicited guarantees from the Haitian parliament within the scope of their technical mission of assessment in the country. Senator Dejean Belizaire, the Senate president, has referred the OAS secretary general to the provisional executive.

The parliamentarians began a series of meetings to work out a proposal for a solution to the crisis, the first of which was held last week in the Chamber. Those senators and deputies present stressed the necessity of reaching a solution to the crisis, particularly because the embargo is wreaking havoc in the country. The parliamentarians met again yesterday at an undisclosed location. Nothing has filtered through about what was discussed at that

meeting. We have learned, however, that no final solution was accepted by the participants. An important assembly is scheduled for this Tuesday in the Chamber of Deputies. At that time the lower chamber should propose a plan to help the country emerge from its difficult situation.

Meanwhile, the provisional government has still not responded to the Senate's proposal to hold a tripartite meeting among the parliament, the Army, and the Provisional Government on the political crisis.

Belizaire Sends Belated Invitation To Executive

FL2104185792 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] It was only yesterday that the Senate president, engineer Dejean Belizaire, officially invited the provisional government to participate in the tripartite meeting to find a solution to the crisis. Rejecting the government's proposal for a national conference, the Senate decided as early as the beginning of last week to organize a meeting with the main institutions concerned with the crisis: the parliament, the Army, and the provisional government.

Although Dejean Belizaire had pointed out the urgent necessity of holding such a meeting, he waited to send the invitation letter to provisional President Joseph Nerette until Monday, 20 April. Observers interpret that as a delay tactic.

However, a group of senators might begin the dialogue with the de facto executive today during a possible meeting with Justice Nerette and Prime Minister Honorat. That is according to a report from an informed source.

Belizaire's Handling of OAS Criticized

FL2104195192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Senator Rony Mondestin of the National Reconstruction Movement, MRN, has strongly criticized Senate President Dejean Belizaire's position. The senator stated that President Belizaire had obtained guarantees for OAS missions in the past by directly addressing the executive or the Army.

[Begin Mondestin recording] [Words indistinct] but what is extremely important—we find it very, very unacceptable and strange—is that the Senate president decided by himself, on behalf of the Haitian parliament, that the parliament could not guarantee the presence of such a mission in Haiti. Upon receiving the OAS letters on 10 or 11 November and on 20 December, that same Senate president went to see the military executive, General Cedras, and the head of the government to obtain the necessary guarantees so Haiti could negotiate with the OAS.

Today his strategy has changed. Something has changed. That is the president's attitude toward the national question. The president's understanding of his role as president of an assembly that has different senators with different opinions and positions on what we are facing has changed.

I think that decency exists. If the Senate president gets to the point where he is afraid to discuss questions of importance with the assembly, it is because he has a different problem. He is afraid that, democratically, the assembly [word indistinct]. He is afraid the assembly will democratically make a decision contrary to what he wants. That is the problem. [passage omitted] [end recording]

FNCD Demands Government's 'Peaceful' Overthrow

FL2104182392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1300 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] again is demanding the departure of the provisional government. In a communique, the Front says that the Nerette-Honorat government is leading the country into a catastrophe. The FNCD says the current regime is systematically violating the Constitution by creating a climate of repression throughout the country. The FNCD calls for a peaceful, concerted mobilization to overthrow the provisional government.

El Salvador

FMLN To Protest Noncompliance With Agreements

PA2204005392 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Report by Violeta Polanco]

[Text] A Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, delegation left for New York to protest noncompliance with the peace agreements before UN representatives. They will also meet with members of the UN Development Program to expedite aid for the rebels' incorporation into civilian life.

Compliance with the agreements is possibly going through one of the most difficult phases of the process. Both sides are accusing each other of not complying with the agreements. The FMLN has accused the government and members of the Armed Forces of violating and delaying the implementation of the agreements because of pressure from the country's most recalcitrant rightists.

Before departing for New York, FMLN Commander Jorge Shafik Handal said mechanisms must be found to expedite the process.

[Begin Handal recording] The peace process in El Salvador is currently deteriorating, which is very worrisome. We will do everything possible to overcome the current situation and prevent further noncompliance, violations, and distortions of the agreements. The government, particularly the Armed Forces, has created this situation, which we hope will soon change. [end recording]

Regarding the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Handal said its efforts are being impeded by its Armed Forces members.

The FMLN representatives will also meet with members of the UN Development Program to accelerate the aid that will be sent to El Salvador, particularly supplies for the FMLN combatants.

[Begin Handal recording, in progress]...the shipment of supplies to areas where FMLN members have concentrated, and the promotion of international cooperation programs to facilitate the reincorporation of our combatants into civilian life. [end recording]

The FMLN representatives will be in New York this week, hoping that by the time they return, the situation will have changed so the agreements can advance. They stressed that the only achievement so far has been the silencing of machine-gun fire.

May Not Demobilize

PA2204013792 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1815 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] will not demobilize the first 20 percent of its members if the government does not allocate lands for them and fulfill other aspects of the peace agreements, according to FMLN Commander Gregorio Pena.

According to the peace agreements signed between the government and the FMLN, no less than 20 percent of the former FMLN fighters must return to civilian life by 1 May. Pena said that if the government does not allocate land for the former fighters and provide other benefits for the National Army for Democracy [END], they will not demobilize.

[Begin Pena recording] According to the agreements, at least 20 percent of the END fighters must return to civilian life on 1 May. For that to happen, the government must also fulfill its part of the agreements by then. The agreements stipulate that land and benefits will be allocated to the troops. The benefits include a house, treatment for comrades wounded in battle, and survivors' benefits, among other things. If the agreements are fulfilled, we are willing to demobilize and return the first 20 percent of our fighters to civilian life. Other general agreements must be fulfilled, such as the elimination of the National Guard and the Treasury Police; the land package; and a forum for dialogue [foro de concertacion]. All agreements must be fulfilled for demobilization to take place. [end recording]

Commander Pena added that nothing is definite and reiterated there will be no demobilization on 1 May if there are no guarantees that the former soldiers will not end up in the streets.

[Begin Pena recording] Nothing is definite yet. We state clearly and categorically that we are not going to demobilize our 20 percent if it is still unclear whether our fighters will end up in the streets with nothing. That has been our position, and we are going to maintain that position. The government has put obstacles in the way of land and housing allocation. There are also obstacles in the way of aid such as food and provisions that were to be sent to our camps. We have received nothing, not a single shirt. We have received no supplies. Those are only a few of the hurdles, and we demand fulfillment of the agreements before we demobilize the first 20 percent of our troops. [end recording]

Pena said the government wants to turn public opinion against the FMLN by accusing the FMLN of encouraging illegal land occupation; of not turning in their weapons, only scrap metal, and contributing to juvenile delinquency. He said the government wants people to believe the FMLN fighters do not want a return to peace when actually the right-wing groups are the ones who do not want to lose the privileges they have enjoyed for many decades.

Foreign Ministry Sends Protest Note to Nicaragua

PA2204034392 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Enrique Lemus]

[Text] On 21 April, the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Nicaraguan Government protesting the murder of one of the 26 Salvadorans captured by the Nicaraguan Navy.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso said the victim was identified as Manuel de Jesus Flores, whose body showed signs of torture.

According to the official report, the corpse is already in El Salvador, while the rest of the Salvadorans who were detained, including six minors, are still in Nicaragua.

Valdivieso did not give any details on the incident.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] According to the initial reports, the detained crew members include six minors. In addition, one person was killed and apparently tortured. We will ask Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal to conduct an investigation. After both governments have stated their official position, we will request the release of the minors. [name indistinct] departed on the morning of 21 April to demand the release of the Salvadorans who are detained, particularly the release of and good treatment for the six minors. [end recording]

Valdivieso said the Salvadoran Government requested a thorough investigation on Flores' capture and murder. He categorically condemned the incident, stressing that these type of actions are carried out by persons who still do not share the ideals of integration and peace for which the governments in the area are working.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] We will ask President Chamorro's government to investigate this case, because Central America cannot continue to protect renegades and criminals, enemies of [words indistinct] who are causing so much harm. For now, I will say there are still people who encourage violence using an institution as a shield. We cannot tolerate such actions, particularly in this case [words indistinct] [end recording].

Official sources reported that the incident occurred on 18 April in Salvadoran waters in the Gulf of Fonseca. According to the report, the Salvadoran crew members are under arrest at the Sandinist base in Port of Corinto, Nicaragua.

Guatemala

Government Still Recognizes Fujimori as President

PA2104230692 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez asserted on 21 April that the Guatemalan Government considers Alberto Fujimori the president of Peru.

"Fujimori was elected by popular vote and is still the president," stressed the minister when asked by ACAN-EFE if Guatemala will recognize the self-styled Peruvian "constitutional government," which was installed on 21 April by First Vice President Maximo San Roman.

Menendez added Guatemala is awaiting information from an OAS commission visiting Lima regarding the political situation following the coup by Fujimori on 5 April and San Roman's decision to be sworn in as president by Congress.

Government Denies Fidel Castro Met With Serrano

PA2204143692 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] Government sources on 20 April denied reports that Fidel Castro visited Guatemala and met with President Jorge Serrano Elias.

The Defense Ministry said it had no knowledge of the alleged visit of the person in question. The U.S. Embassy gave the same answer. Meanwhile, a secretary at the Foreign Ministry said the foreign minister was not in and that Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel Villacorta was out to lunch.

As for Civil Aeronautics, General Director Enrique Antonio Salazar Gonzalez confirmed the arrival of Flight YAK-42, with registration number CUT-1276. He said that this airplane, which is similar to a 727, makes "chartered" flights.

"This airplane came on a commercial contract; it carried several tourists who had spent Holy Week in Cuba and was chartered by the VIVATUR travel agency," Salazar said.

Salazar also said that "Guatemala has always conducted commercial operations with Cuba, which is why, for example, the two countries compete against each other in the Olympics." [sentence as published]

Meanwhile, Colonel Ernesto Paiz Novales, general director of Immigration, said that "no Cuban has stepped on Guatemalan territory, let alone Fidel Castro; I am sure of that."

Other reports concerning Fidel Castro's visit stated that if the Cuban president had visited Guatemala, he would have done so under strict security measures and if, in fact, he did come, he did so unofficially.

Honduras

* Codeh Stresses Human Rights Failures, Abuses

92CA0130A San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The weakness of the government when faced with arbitrary military decisions and the failure to respect and implement the Constitution of the Republic in 1991 reveal that Honduras continues "to be a country without justice for victims or punishment for those who have harmed them, because impunity prevails." These are the conclusions reached by the Codeh

[Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras] on the human rights situation in Honduras.

This committee, which is headed by Dr. Ramon Custodio Lopez, presented its annual report on human rights violations to ambassadors from various countries, special guests, and journalists on Wednesday night.

In addition to Dr. Custodio, the speakers included the vice president of the Codeh, Oscar Anibal Puerto, and Antonio Zelaya, the representative of the northern zone. In a statement read during the meeting, the Codeh noted that the human rights situation in any society reflects, above all, the conduct and the actions of the government toward the people.

"The weakness of the government in dealing with arbitrary military and civilian officials contrasts with the heavy hand revealed in the militarization of the worker-employer conflicts, resulting in situations in which force has been used against the right of free association and trade-union organization." Respect for and application of the Constitution of the Republic, or the principles of the Constitution and legality, continue to be only a utopia, an impossible dream, in the search for the legitimacy of the state and democracy.

"The lives of millions of Honduran citizens are characterized by injustice incarnate, because they are the victims of hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and ignorance, joblessness and poverty, abuse of authority and lack of security, and dehumanized planning that works to the detriment of those whose labor is their only asset," the statement said.

According to the report, the Codeh found evidence in 1991 of state responsibility, as a result of action or omission, for violations including homicides and abuses of authority as a result of which 72 individuals were assassinated by members of the armed forces. Of these, 55 were fully identified, while it is suspected that the balance (17) were killed by police agents.

The report said that last year, nine individuals were assassinated because of their political activities. The Codeh produced rational proof and also the testimony of witnesses as to the responsibility of agents of the National Directorate of Investigations (DNI) in these cases, in which the judges involved blocked the investigations.

In the records of torture, punishment, and other cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment, 156 persons are reported to have been victims. Of this number, 51 were executed by the police in the course of attempts to make them confess, while 68 of those tortured were inmates at Central Penitentiary (PC).

According to the Codeh, 718 arrests were made without meeting any of the legal requirements. This figure was higher than that for 1990, which was 359.

The report added that the Supreme Court has still not resolved the jurisdictional conflict created by the military personnel who won the right to be tried in military courts after having committed common crimes.

"Instead of heeding the criticism, investigating the charges, and establishing responsibility, the authorities are denying the facts, lying to protect those responsible, and pushing the whole burden of proof onto the victims or their defenders."

"The present National Party government has consistently shown that its conduct where human rights are concerned is almost the same as that of the two liberal governments which preceded it."

"The Codeh is sorry to say that the administration of Rafael Leondardo Callejas has thus far failed in its policy designed to ensure respect for human rights and to put an end to the impunity enjoyed by the Honduran military personnel who violate human rights and are responsible for 87.6 percent of these violations."

Participants in the meeting included Spanish Ambassador Jose Lopez Barron, Italian Ambassador Lodovico Masetti, Chilean Ambassador Victoria Morales, German Ambassador Walter Eickhoff, Luida Cowher, the human rights representative from the U.S. embassy, and representatives of Mexican organizations. Notable among those present was Isabel Morel de Letelier, the wife of the Chilean ambassador, Orlando Letelier, who was murdered in Washington.

Nicaragua

Salvadoran Fishing Boats Captured; Captain Dies

PA2204031992 Managua Radio YA in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Captain Leonel Gonzalez, head of Corinto Naval District, has reported an incident in which naval authorities destroyed two fishing vessels and four dugouts.

Salvadoran Capt. Manuel de Jesus Flores died during an attempt to attack a Nicaraguan officer. Illegal fishing, involving mostly Salvadoran and Honduran fishing vessels, has increased recently off Point Cosiguina, Chinandega Department.

It was reported that the vessels, dugouts, and 19 sailors are being detained in Corinto until the nature of the cargo can be determined. The possibility of involvement in drug trafficking has not been ruled out. It was confirmed that these vessels are owned by a Salvadoran Company called Maremar, which operates from the Port of (Launionpo).

Sandinist Party Laments Deputy Ramirez' Death

PA2104234692 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 Apr 92 p 7

[Communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate Secretariat in Managua on 15 April]

[Text] The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate Secretariat informs the people of Nicaragua and its active members that comrade Rogelio Ramirez Mercado died in Pyongyang, DPRK, on 15 April. Ramirez Mercado had been sent by the party to attend the events commemorating President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday. Rogelio Ramirez Mercado was a Sandinist Assembly member, a Masaya Directorate Committee member, and a FSLN member at the Nicaraguan National Assembly.

Comrade Rogelio Ramirez Mercado participated in an intense and outstanding manner in the FSLN, the country's public life, and the academic world. He started out as a FER [Revolutionary Student Front] member at the UNAN [National Autonomous University] in Leon. He graduated as a lawyer. Later, he earned a political and social sciences masters degree at the Latin American Social Sciences School in Santiago, Chile. He taught several courses at UNAN in Leon and in Managua.

Ramirez entered the FSLN's ranks in 1967. After the triumph of the revolution, he occupied the post of municipal affairs minister and later was appointed Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica. He was a member of the "Omar Torrijos" brigade stationed at El Cua. Later, Ramirez joined the political training group of the Sandinist People's Army. He was elected National Constituent Assembly deputy and worked actively in drafting the 1987 Constitution.

The FSLN regrets this premature death, which brings grief to its flag and the fatherland, praises the fruitful life of companero Rogelio Ramirez Mercado at the service of the people of Nicaragua, and offers condolences to his wife Antonina Vivas Bernard; his sons Pedro, Rogelio, and Mauricio; his mother Luisa Mercado de Ramirez; his brother companero Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the FSLN National Directorate; and his sisters Marcia Ramirez de Morales and Lisandro Ramirez Mercado.

The date and place of his funeral will be announced in a later communique.

Free Fatherland or Death!

[Signed] FSLN National Directorate Secretariat

[Issued] Managua, 15 April 1992

* Government Negotiations With FSLN Criticized

92CA0129D Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Mar 92 p 10

[Editorial by Horacio Ruiz: "The Government Cannot Be Intimidated by Fear"]

[Text] The most recent round of talks between the government and the Sandinist Party has deepened our people's doubts about the true significance of this type of meeting and its practical results.

Such doubt mainly revolves around whether the Sandinist representatives go there to intimidate the government and try to make it yield to its own designs and whether they will not in fact end up by making it lose its own initiative, keeping it in a constant state of fear without any other real objective than to obstruct its work.

For any objective observer, the essence of dialogue between a party in power, in this case the UNO [National Opposition Union] coalition, and an opposition party can only inspire noble hopes of strengthening the state of law and restoring the nation's resources destroyed by natural disasters, war, and the most destructive episode of all: the Sandinist regime of the 1980's.

However, in our case, what generates doubt is the fact that the government comes to talk with representatives of the Sandinist Party who have just returned from agitated sessions that called for violence. In other words, the government's delegates go to the table under the threat of new disturbances like those of July 1990 and November 1991, when the government's property was at the mercy of the incendiary torch and shots from the Sandinist mob. On numerous occasions, the government has heard the promise that this type of action would not be repeated and that the occupation of private property would not reoccur. Nevertheless, new incidents only days later broke such promises.

The recent statements by a Sandinist trade union leader were a clear call for the destruction of the little that remains of the country's industrial park if, by 18 March, the conditions demanded by the opposition party are not met. Former President Daniel Ortega continues to derive political gain from all the social unrest existing in the country, principally that of armed groups that disarm here and then reappear in other spots.

The most recent meeting produced a statement according to which the government must heed recommendations from the Sandinist Party, uncertain whether they are suggestions or dictates. Without analyzing how appropriate these recommendations or dictates are, it should be made clear that Violeta de Chamorro's government has first of all been careful to adopt suitable provisions for the operation of a free market economy within parameters that should gradually provide work opportunities and well-being for the greatest number of

Nicaraguans. During Mrs. Chamorro's two years of government, everything possible and more has been done to guarantee the rights of Nicaraguans, including the right to a decent standard of living and prosperity.

Consequently, our citizens do not understand why this government, which battles daily to improve the status of businesses by means of an advanced and scientifically planned fiscal policy—which also applies to numerous companies of Sandinists that emerged when that political faction fell from power—why, in short, this government should pay any attention to suggestions from those who were the precise opposite, i.e., terrible rulers who demonstrated that they knew nothing about anything and tried to implement nothing but blunders and mistakes.

Nor do the citizens understand why Violeta Chamorro's government, which was legitimately elected and which is the genuine representative of the majority of the Nicaraguan people, should have to hear advice from persons who only hours before threatened to burn the country, issuing an ultimatum, and who only weeks before caused enormous destruction to our country's resources.

Our citizens are concerned that the government may be displaying excessive weakness by its attitude of following the advice of those exerting pressure through new violence. Continuing to show such submission, not to the freely expressed opinion of the opposition, which would be fine, but to imposition accentuated by the threat of chaos, could lead the government to a certain denaturalization of its true purposes and legitimate operation.

Recent events demonstrate that the Sandinist Party, whose alleged division is not believed by the majority, may only be taking advantage of the climate of understanding, dialogue, concord, or whatever it might be called, in order to maintain political preeminence and hegemony based on the passiveness that its policy of warning, club in hand, dictates.

The government must return to the channel of reconciliation, but priority here must go to its own political rank and file, the very people who led Mrs. Chamorro to her 1990 election victory. To pay sole heed to the political enemy out of fear that a new wave of destruction might be unleashed, rather than the political friend who would provide support under any circumstances, may be an error that has gone on too long. If the government does not correct it, it could soon find itself without any real means to control a political rival that imposes its will by fear, confident that the very people who elected it may end up backing a government that cannot impose its will by its own decisions.

* FNT Violence, FSLN Attitude Criticized

92CA0129C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 10

[Editorial: "The FNT Against the People"]

[Text] The National Workers Front (FNT) called a workers' "march" in order to put pressure on the government to comply with the dialogue agreements. In a mixture of trade union interests against a political background, those summoned put forth demands made by workers from METASA [expansion not given], the Victoria Brewery, Central Bank, and cane workers from sugar mills, among others, all represented by the ineffable Lucio Jimenez, this time assisted in the agitation by former Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

Tires set on fire, vehicle traffic brought to a stop, and an atmosphere of anxiety once again characterized Bolivar Avenue, which was practically taken over by the new Sandinist mobs that in the end are no more than a tiny, well-organized percentage of the total workers present.

The FNT is once again brandishing violence because of its failure to generate the desired response to its summons: Only 1,000 demonstrators of an anticipated 10,000 actually appeared, with the resulting arguments, excuses, slogans, and appeals for a general strike.

However, this time the alleged power of the FNT's destabilizing summons did not have the pretext it had hoped for. Very few seemed to heed its inciteful slogans advocating destabilization. In the near future, this minority will have to join in the movement toward stability that Nicaragua is demanding. The purpose of the authorized march was openly distorted and turned into debauchery, frank incitement to violence.

International cables have once again called Nicaragua on the carpet, not to congratulate our democracy, but to point out our dubious stability and underscore our name in the list of countries posing the greatest risk for foreign investment.

The political settlement has failed once again. The labor arm of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] deauthorizes and questions the recent promises of the Sandinist National Directorate that, through its general secretary, Daniel Ortega, last Saturday offered to support the government with civic methods. It would appear that such duality is premeditated or that the once all-powerful National Directorate is incapable of controlling its followers.

The fact is that there is a general lack of awareness among Nicaraguan people that we are truly going through a profound economic and social crisis. We shall not be able to get this country on the right track if all Nicaraguans do not make a united contribution to the effort. The FNT seems not to understand this. The Central Bank has 800 employees and could be run by 200. The cane strike is costing the country $200,000 a day and the FNT does not appear to understand this either.

It is we Nicaraguans, particularly the poorest, neediest sectors, who are forced to pay for such featherbedding, not only at the Central Bank, but in all government enterprises as well, and for the sugar strikes.

As a productive society, we rank alongside Haiti or Guinea. What we produce ($200 million), compared with what we import ($800 million), should take us back to the levels and parameters of the 1940's. We practically live on donations, which are about to run out.

We must make it known and realize that this government took over a country that had been totally looted, without any physical or moral inventory, a country burdened by a total inversion of assets acquired over the past 10 years that affected the Nicaraguan family by dividing it; the Nicaraguan businessman who, by being taught not to take risks, learned to depend on the government and its subsidies; and the Nicaraguan worker, deprived of his labor ethics and work discipline and, when both of these had been destroyed, his initiative and creativity.

This is the country taken over by the democratic government and that the very persons who bequeathed it to us (or at least one sector of them) are constantly trying to destabilize. Whether or not the FNT's march was ordered by political interests, it unquestionably worsens the situation. It goes from being a reflection to concrete acts and requires a better definition of precisely who is in favor of or against national interests.

* Critical Situation of Peasant Workers Reported

92CA0129F Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Mar 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Recognizing the Peasant Emergency"]

[Text] Just as they were 14 years ago, the peasants are once again being forced to take action to fight hunger. The Association of Agricultural Workers (ATC), founded in March 1977, served notice during yesterday's march that 70,000 unemployed agricultural workers and 30,000 underemployed workers comprise the detonator of what could be an agrarian conflict similar to or worse than the one endured in Nicaragua during the Somoza era.

Just as the takeover of Ocotal and other adjacent towns by rearmed civilians was a warning bell, the thousands of peasants who yesterday marched through the streets of the capital without their machetes and demanded the basic right to food and jobs are also the first notice of the worsening social crisis.

Agricultural workers, particularly those at Occidente, have been hit directly by the drastic reduction in the area used to plant cotton. This situation is further heightened by ambiguous government policies on privatization and the elimination of ownership by the workers, as in the cases of Hatonic [state-owned cattle enterprise] and Agroexco [State Cotton, Peanut, and Sesame Production Company].

When combined with the general economic and social crisis in the country, these factors have gradually placed rural workers in a desperate situation. With no work or food, their desperation is rapidly turning into a general pattern of conduct.

To date, the government has spoken of alternative plans such as the diversification of crops to replace cotton, but in practice it acts with the parsimony typical of those who can afford to wait. And while agricultural workers have declared themselves in an emergency situation and are proposing concrete, dramatic alternatives such as trading work for food, those in government cannot progress beyond displaying their own ineptitude.

It is unacceptable that only when one takes up a gun or resorts to violence is the government ever willing to listen. Yesterday, thousands of farm workers marched peacefully, but if the only response they receive continues to be evasion and demagogic rhetoric, then who can guarantee that these starving, desperate people will resign themselves to death, struck down by poverty and official insensitivity?

The government has the power to prevent this predicted social outbreak from occurring—the consequence rather than the cause of the crisis—but it will necessarily depend on a redrafting of economic policy.

The implementation of emergency plans that are sectorially and geographically localized is urgently needed, and we must review the operation of the Ministry of Agriculture and its attention to big producers. The declaration of an economic and social emergency and recognition of an agricultural emergency in critical zones of rural areas can wait no longer.

* Current Situation Viewed as Social Explosion

92CA0129E Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Mar 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Belligerent Peace"]

[Text] Now that the official optimism denies the possibility of a social explosion in Nicaragua, trusting that here we have no Chavez in the armed forces as they do in Venezuela, it would be fitting to remind the soothsayers—and not the tellers of ill omens who desire only chaos and mourning in our country—that a phenomenon so greatly feared has more than one way of manifesting itself. Indeed, it has various forms of despair, violence, and death to choose from, and no sudden fire of major proportions has to occur before we see that it is an incontrovertible reality.

Given the socioeconomic conditions in which most Nicaraguan people find themselves, the social explosion is already a reality even though its detonation is no single incident, but rather, varied and manifold in nature. Nor does it have a single tragic register, but rather, different scenarios scattered throughout the tormented, naked, starving, violent, and bloody geography of our nation. That these are not simple, gratuitous metaphors is proved by the hundreds if not thousands of criminal

incidents that take place daily throughout the country, incidents reported only incompletely in the media.

When one combines all these acts of resistance, violence, and criminality with the effects of hunger, lack of health care, inadequate education, the unspoken family tensions that are the fruit of economic desperation, and the uncertainty of the present and the future, the results could not be more revealing: Nicaragua has already exploded and is exploding every day in a whole scenario of tragic and terrible events that physically affect only the poor and urban and rural workers, events that high officials in the capital and the government only learn about by reading the newspapers.

This is social war, an "irregular," unconventional war, because it cannot be defined by specific positions in a set geographic space, fought by uniformed forces having a clear millitary profile. Rather, it is a war without borders, an interminable and, to a great extent, irrational war of isolated social subjects who rise up blindly and uncontrollably against an asphyxiating, inextricable "order of things" that condemns them to unemployment, impotence, and scorn, an explosion without hope.

Even if we do not see the multitudes throwing themselves against the tents in Managua and the country's other major cities in the midst of fires and shots fired by the protagonists, the many "outbreaks" proliferate in a scattered fashion, but are no less real for that.

If we add up all these detonations, the sum is an outbreak of major proportions. One merely has to have the eyes to see it.

Panama

Endara Seeks Solutions With Colon Authorities

PA2104150092 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The executive and legislative branches are seeking solutions to the unemployment problem in Colon, while the Movement of Unemployed in that province has announced there will be more demonstrations this week.

To prevent the continuation of protests that for several days ended in street riots in Colon, on 20 April President Guillermo Endara Galimany met with legislators and authorities from that province to seek solutions through support from micro-enterprises and small enterprises, which can create new jobs.

[Begin Endara recording] There is an important factor: Colon will only resolve its problems if the people of Colon act united, constructively, and show that they really want to resolve their crisis. I am expressing the government's desire to contribute to ending the crisis. [end recording]

Colon Mayor Alcibiades Gonzalez said the crisis is caused by a lack of decentralization. He blamed the Legislative Assembly for the current chaos in Colon.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] Yesterday we were surrounded by the U.S. Government. We were an island surrounded by the U.S. Government. Today we are surrounded by all the ministries. All the land surrounding the city of Colon belongs to the Ministries of Finance and Commerce, the Port Authority, and so on. Local governments are not given the opportunity to develop, which is the solution our country requires: decentralization by delegating responsibility to local governments.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] responsible?

[Gonzalez] Definitely. The Legislative Assembly is legislating for the central government, not for local governments. As long as legislators do not share the feelings of local governments, they will never legislate for us.

[Reporter] Would you say there is a state monopoly in Colon?

[Gonzalez] It exists and will continue to exist unless we stand firm once and for all and decentralize. That is the word: decentralize. We must decentralize through laws so local governments can begin to cut the bureaucracy.

[Reporter] The people of Colon do not seem to agree with the reply they have thus far received from the executive branch, and more demonstrations are expected this week.

[Gonzalez] I would not say they disagree, but they are asking for more. We are seeking other solutions to end the crisis and put them to work. This problem did not begin yesterday. Although we are not the past government, the problems we inherited are huge. What we must do now is work harder to move ahead and stop thinking in terms of political parties. Colon will never overcome the current crisis if big and small groups continue to put political interests before those of the people, of whom they are a part. [end recording]

Unemployed Block City Entrance; Wait for Endara

PA2204134292 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report by David Perez from Colon]

[Text] The Movement of Colon Unemployed once again closed the entrance to the city of Colon in the early hours of 22 April. We will listen to a leader of the Movement who says the entrance to the city will not be opened until the president arrives. The road has been closed since 0600 this morning. (Omar Esquilla) representing the Movement of Colon Unemployed explains:

[Begin recording] [(Esquilla)] We set a time limit for the president to come to Colon and he has not arrived. We have therefore decided to close the road indefinitely.

[Perez] If the president does not come to Colon today, what other measures will be taken?

[(Esquilla)] If we have to, we will block the road every day of the week.

[Perez] Meetings have been held in Panama City over the past few days to try to find solutions for the problems of Colon. How have the unemployed in Colon reacted to these meetings?

[(Esquilla)] I say the legislators, the governor, and the mayor have been shameless because if they intended to meet with the president, they should have chosen five members of the Movement of Colon Unemployed to see what can be negotiated with the president.

[Perez] What support do you have for this type of activity?

[(Esquilla)] We have the full support of the organizations that back us here in Colon. [end recording]

Since early this morning the entrance to the city of Colon has been blocked by protestors among the unemployed in Colon, who demand more job opportunities and question the attitude of the central government, which does not have a definite solution to the Colon situation. The demonstrators say they will maintain the roadblock to the entrance to Colon until the president arrives.

Paramilitary Group Threatens To Kill Criminals

PA2204000492 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] I cannot conceive of the formation of groups which, oblivious to institutional order, intend to take justice into their own hands, says Stanley Muschett, president of the Justice and Peace Commission, referring to the alleged "Death to Criminals" (MAD) squad that announced its formation a little more than a week ago.

In a proclamation addressed to a media source on 2 April, MAD announced its creation and warned it would execute—as they deserve—all criminals to whom Panamanian law and justice granted freedom to perpetrate crimes and who are sheltered by the law because the Public Force is incapable of fulfilling and enforcing the country's laws.

Regarding the proclamation, Muschett said that no paramilitary or paralegal group operating outside the institutional system can be welcomed, much less supported.

When asked if the authorities should investigate these threats, Muschett stressed that any expression constituting a threat to institutional order and to basic human rights—specifically the right to life—should be investigated by the proper institutions. He added these institutions should establish preventive measures to keep Panama from contributing to the growing number of paramilitary or paralegal groups.

Argentina

Menem Accuses Media of Campaign To Discredit

PY2104225892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Apr 92 p 11

[Text] (DYN)—President Carlos Menem lashed out once again at "certain media" that he accused of staging "a campaign to discredit my government and produce information that has nothing to do with what is really happening in Argentina."

Menem compared the coverage of the government's actions by national media with "the newspaper cuttings that (Presidential Spokesman Humberto) Toledo brought me from his recent trip to Europe."

He pointed out that "in Le Monde, for example, a headline says that 'Argentina confirms its spectacular recovery,' while in Italy they speak of the Argentine miracle and Menem's boom and they say that 'Menem has also seduced the Italians.'"

Menem pointed his harshest criticism at Ambito Financiero Publisher Julio Ramos, who published a statement in his newspaper saying that there is more corruption now than during the administration of former President Raul Alfonsin.

"I don't think that Julio thinks too much...I don't know... He must be going through a difficult time; one has to try and understand him, but he's evidently on some other planet, not the planet Earth," Menem said.

In turn, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said that "the tactics of Ambito Financiero consist of being completely amoral. It is quite a remarkable fact that one finds no moral values at all in that daily."

Buenos Aires Newspaper Reveals SIDE Budget

PY2104230092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Apr 92 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (DYN)—During 1991 SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] state intelligence received 122.8 million pesos from the national budget but was not required to give an accounting of how it spent those funds due to the secret nature of its work, according to a report yesterday in the Buenos Aires daily El Cronista. Citing a study by the Economy Ministry on regulating state expenses, the newspaper revealed that in comparison the Defence Ministry received 32 million pesos last year, Government House 452,000 pesos and the Foreign Ministry 20 million pesos.

Bank Releases Second List of Loan Defaulters

PY2104225692 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Apr 92 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN)—A complete list of Central Bank loan defaulters would fill "a phone book," Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said yesterday, as the bank got ready to release a second list of offenders last night.

He thus deflated expectations of a full list of defaulters being released, expectations that had built up since last week when the Central Bank (BCRA) released a juicy list of 200 persons sanctioned by the bank.

The loans correspond to money owed by 212 financial companies taken over by the Central Bank for their liquidation during the 80s, a total of nearly 16 billion dollars. The largest part of the debt, 11 billion dollars, corresponds to 22 banks, and the remaining 4.7 billion is spread out between the remaining 190.

The four largest losses correspond to the Banco de los Andes of the former Grecco group (2.8 billion dollars), the BIR [Regional Exchange Bank] (1.3 billion), the Banco del Oeste (1.1 billion) and the Banco Oddone (one billion dollars).

Cavallo said that, due to the difficulty in releasing a full list of debtors, the Central Bank would make such a list available at its central offices or at the office of each particular entity in liquidation.

The minister came forward to make a distinction between true offenders and circumstantial inclusions in last week's list. Among the latter he classified two economic area officials who made it to the Central Bank's hit parade. Central Bank Vice President Felipe Murolo is one of them, but had only been charged "a small fine" for his role in the Condecor finance house collapse, Cavallo said. The other is Transport Secretary Edmundo Soria, also defended by Cavallo. Soria was fined 5,650 dollars by the Central Bank for his own role in Condecor.

Argentina's two banking associations took opposing stands on the lists yesterday, with ADEBA [Association of Argentine Banks] (grouping domestic banks) demanding an interview with the Central Bank to presumably protest their publication and ABRA [Banking Association of the Republic of Argentina] (grouping foreign banks) openly supporting them. ADEBA President Roque Maccarone was named in last week's list, though Cavallo rushed to say he is one of the "good" people listed, as opposed to "bad" offenders.

Bolivia

Minister, Official Deny EGTK Torture Charges

PY2204032292 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Top Interior Ministry officials have emphatically denied the implementation of physical and psychological torture against the people detained in connection with antiterrorist investigations.

Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno called a meeting with Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly leaders to inform them that the detainees were treated in accordance with current democratic laws.

It may be recalled that last Monday Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly leaders reported that some Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army, EGTK, detainees were tortured by Interior Ministry agents during police proceedings. Those charges were rejected by Interior Under Secretary Marco Antonio Oviedo, who said that the testimony of the detainees involved in terrorism were heard in the presence of prosecutors, in accordance with the laws. The Interior Ministry interior under secretary said that after each testimony, forensic doctors checked the detainees and there are two documents on this issue.

For his part, the interior minister confirmed that security and intelligence agents have precise instructions and are familiar with the appropriate laws in order to hear the testimony of the detainees within the framework of the democratic process prevailing in our country.

'Climatic Factors' Slow Coca Eradication Rate

PY2204015692 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Campesino Affairs Minister Osvaldo Antezana has said that climatic factors have affected the eradication rate for coca crops.

Minister Antezana explained that 1,200 hectares of coca were eradicated during the first quarter of this year. He said that the figure is not representative, however, of what will happen in our country with regard to the targeted substitution plan involving 7,000 hectares for the 1992 fiscal year.

The campesino affairs minister said that heavy rains and floods have slowed the rate of the eradication plan. [passage omitted]

Osvaldo Antezana was asked about U.S. cooperation for the alternative development plan in implementing projects during the current fiscal year. A total of $20 million has been allocated for alternative development, $66 million have been allocated to support the balance of payments, and additional support will be received from PL-480 [not further specified]. In sum, bilateral support in 1992 totals $100 million.

Brazil

Government Bans Aircraft, Weapons Sales to Libya

PY2204020692 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—Complying with instructions from the Brazilian Government, which has endorsed the UN sanctions against Libya, Brazilian citizens are already leaving Libya. According to Itamaraty, the following people left by ship for Malta yesterday: Hamilton Sebastiao Freitas Viana; Ascanio Mello de Macedo, his wife Albertina Meirinho, and their son Ascanio Junior; and Nize Suzete Rodrigues.

These people had been trying to leave Tripoli since 16 April. They were working as aircraft maintenance experts at Libyan Arab Airlines (LAA). Three other LAA employees—Jorge Fernando Marcurci, Roberto Campos de Rezende, and Marcos Santos da Silva—are still awaiting their exit visas.

The Foreign Trade Department yesterday took additional measures designed to implement the embargo by publishing in the DIARIO OFICIAL DA UNIAO a decree banning the sale or supply of aircraft or weapons to Libya.

Collor Interviewed About Reelection, Cuba

PY2204024492 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Apr 92 Section 1, pp 8, 9

["Main portions" of interview with President Fernando Collor by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO Brasilia Bureau director Gilberto Dimenstein and executive director Josias de Souza in Brasilia on 15 April]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [FOLHA] Mr. President, you are not afraid that Brazil may be contaminated by the "Fujimori effect"?

[Collor] No. I believe that Brazil has been definitely vaccinated against that disease. We believe in democracy.

[FOLHA] Did you not receive an EMFA [Armed Forces General Staff] report stating that the salaries of military men are out of step with...

[Collor] Just a minute. (He turns around to face photographer Roberto Jayme, who is photographing his movements) If it does not bother you, I would like to take a few puffs of this cigar here once you are done. (The cigar was in the ashtray. The photographer stopped working for a while. Collor lit his cigar and inhaled with pleasure.)

[FOLHA] Despite the salary problems, you do not believe that there is a risk of...

[Collor] No, no. There is no risk of a breach in the institutional order.

[FOLHA] How about the risk of a military uprising?

[Collor] None at all. I do not believe so. I do not. There is a congressman (Deputy Jair Bolsonaro, Christian Democratic Party from Rio de Janeiro) who is a bit upset. He is not, however, finding too much support. I understand that the salaries are very low. That does not help Armed Forces members to be happy or, rather, satisfied. Neither does it mean that they will take an unorthodox way out simply because they are dissatisfied.

[FOLHA] What attitude do you plan to take toward possible use of the government machine in the municipal elections?

[Collor] The government will refrain from involvement in the municipal elections. I could go as far as to understand if the ministers—who are politicians after all—were to say which candidates they like. I would never accept, however, public servants who take advantage of their position in order to use the power of a ministry to change the course of an election.

[FOLHA] Will those who do be punished?

[Collor] Those who do not want to accept these standards must submit their resignations. [passage omitted]

[FOLHA] Is there anything that you would like to have done but have not because of the protocol of your position?

[Collor] Oh yes, there are many things. As people age they tend to lead quieter, conformist lives. As I am restless by nature, the restrictions are very irritating. That is one of the things I feel most, the lack of freedom.

[FOLHA] Is that one of the reasons for your refusal to run for reelection?

[Collor] To be perfectly frank, I think that all this is just a stage in my life. I do not believe it likely that I will become interested in an elective office, any office in the future.

[FOLHA] So you will put a lid on your political career?

[Collor] Not on my political career. I want to continue working, but with ideas, projects, to build a strong, doctrinal party.

[FOLHA] Why do you want to establish a party if you will not run for any office?

[Collor] I would just stick around. I do not think I would be enthused by the idea of joining the race. It is a very complicated job. I am engaged in political work. I have always said that this is just a political period for me. I have not had a proper political life with a beginning, a middle, and an end. I have been doing the same thing for 10, 12 years. I have given it the best years of my life. This is no game, it brands you. [passage omitted]

[FOLHA] You have given up on the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. Do you believe that the PSDB is afraid of joining the administration?

[Collor] As an outside observer, I believe that the party probably needs an in-depth internal debate to find its own identity. Professor Helio Jaguaribe is the main creator of the party program. He has said that 90 percent of his party program is included in the administration's program. If that is the case, what are the differences?

[FOLHA] Let us talk a bit about the Ciacs [Integrated Centers for Assistance to Children]. The Ciac produces two kinds of children. Some of the children in the Paranoa neighborhood here in Brasilia are studying at the Ciac, while the rest are studying at poorly equipped conventional schools. Does that resolve the problem?

[Collor] Of course it will happen at the beginning.

[FOLHA] Would it not be better to equip existing schools instead of building Ciacs?

[Collor] It really seems that way at first. People keep pressuring, however. We need more Ciacs. Children need more than just education. They must be trained as citizens. Take a look at Cuba. With just 6 or 8 million people there, it is winning scores of Olympic medals and competing with the United States. How does it do that? Through education, nutrition, and basic training.

[FOLHA] You have been mentioning Cuba frequently. Do you believe that an excellent level of education, health, and sports is more important than political freedom?

[Collor] We must first address the question of freedom. What is freedom? I asked Simone, the singer, that very same question two weeks ago. I asked her: Simone, do you believe there is freedom in Cuba? She answered: "No." Do you believe that the poorest people of Brazil are free? She answered: "No." Could one deduce from her answers that Brazil and Cuba are the same? No. Freedom has different scopes. Political freedom is something that I, you, we, enjoy. It is essential. There can be no democracy without political freedom. It means that we speak out, criticize, write, and debate. That is fine, but what about the people who live in Samambaia and Ceilandia (the two poorest satellite cities of the Federal District). The freedom that is essential for us—how essential is it for them? Freedom goes beyond simply being able to do everything the laws allow.

[FOLHA] Theoretically speaking, then, we could conclude that there is more freedom in Cuba than in Brazil?

[Collor] That is not so either. What I want to say is that while Cuba cannot be considered to have a democratic state of law, it gives its citizens opportunities for health, education, and employment.

[FOLHA] You would, therefore, have had no objections to going on that flight of solidarity with Cuba that left Brazil some time ago?

[Collor] None at all. I could even go under other circumstances. Fidel Castro is making great efforts. He is making changes inside the party for the coming elections. It is some progress at least.

Vice President Reaffirms Loyalty to Collor

PY2204124292 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Vice President Itamar Franco has reaffirmed his loyalty to President Fernando Collor, adding that he

bears no resentment over having only been informed of the ministerial reshuffle last week.

[Begin Franco recording] My position has been expressed [words indistinct]. But my position is just the opposite of what the press may have conveyed. I do not resent the president. We have campaigned together and I have good memories of it. I hold the president in high esteem and I am sure he views his vice president in the same light. Obviously disagreements can occur and that is important. The important thing is to know how to disagree without being an adversary, and to know how to use power. [end recording]

This was the first meeting between President Collor and Vice President Itamar Franco since the ministerial reshuffle.

Chile

'First Organized Demonstration' Against Aylwin

PY2104140692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Maria Angelica Rodriguez from Arica]

[Excerpt] The first organized demonstration against President Aylwin was staged in Ica yesterday. A group mainly made up of businessmen refused to listen to a speech delivered by Aylwin, who banged his fist on the table several times during his animated speech. He said:

[Begin Aylwin recording] I believe it is not fair to raise angry voices against a situation that originated a long time ago. Everyone knows that at that time anyone who dared to take to the streets and wave flags against the government ran a risk. I can say that that will not occur to any Chilean under democracy. [end recording]

The blackout that occurred when the rally started revealed the atmosphere prevailing in the Colon Square last night. Black flags in mourning over the death of the city reflected the mood of most local residents who consider Arica to be a patient with terminal cancer. The lack of industries and water supply, the drug addiction, unemployment, child prostitution, and crime are symptoms diagnosed by the residents.

On more than one occasion Aylwin asked the people to act with respect, but nothing changed. A group of demonstrators subsequently withdrew and there was a strong exchange of words, but nothing serious occurred. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Foreign Minister Disavows Ambassador's Actions

PA2104222692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Guillermo Gonzalez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin has just renounced Ambassador to Peru Jaime Gutierrez for his recent actions. On his own initiative, the ambassador visited Peruvian Vice President Maximo San Roman on 20 April, as San Roman declared himself constitutional president in opposition to president-dictator Alberto Fujimori.

This visit was interpreted as though the government is supporting San Roman, and as a result the ambassador's visit was disavowed. As the saying goes, the ambassador made a slip of the tongue.

A few minutes ago, the Colombian Government disavowed the visit by Jaime Gutierrez, Colombia's ambassador to Peru, to Maximo San Roman, president elected by the Peruvian Congress.

[Begin Sanin recording] No. This visit was not authorized by the government. It was a personal act by the ambassador, which the government did not authorize.

[Unidentified reporter] Does the Colombian Government recognize [words indistinct] Fujimori government?

[Sanin] Absolutely.

[Reporter] Will you recall the ambassador for consultation?

[Sanin] He will arrive in Santa Fe de Bogota on 22 April. [end recording]

The renunciation occurred after the meeting between Gutierrez and San Roman and a few hours after these statements:

[Begin Gutierrez recording] I greeted him as a friend and expressed my support and views in favor of returning democracy to Peru. [end recording]

According to Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin, the Colombian ambassador to Peru will return to the country in the next few hours.

Health Minister Criticizes Use of Pesticides

PA2204013892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] The public health minister has seriously criticized the use of pesticides in different parts of the country. The chemicals used in farming rice and cotton are causing serious damage to children and peasants. This report is worrisome and serious.

Health Minister Camilo Gonzalez reported on 21 April the over use of pesticides in the country. He said that in some cases the use of pesticides exceeds the limit amount by 400 times.

At the opening of the international forum on pesticides, which is being held in Santa Fe de Bogota, Gonzalez

stated Colombia is already suffering from the results of the irrational use of chemicals. According to a study by the Public Health Ministry, congenital malformations have been found among newborn babies in the town of Espinal, Tolima Department, due to the pesticides used in farming rice and cotton.

The situation is also critical in the eastern part of Antioquia Department, where over the last 12 years, 5,618 cases of intoxication caused by the use of chemicals have been recorded.

Meanwhile, the Inderena [Institute for the Development of Renewable Natural Resources] distributed a troublesome report. A high concentration of chemicals was found in the soil of the rice-producing areas and the tissue of fish. According to the study by the Inderena, the most affected areas are Santa Marta's Cienaga Grande and the Zapatosa Cienaga swamps, the high and medium basin of the Rio Meta, Rio Ariare, and Rio Cauca, and the Bogota Savannah.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Increasing controls should be established. We have not yet managed to strike a balance for appropiate use of pesticides. In some regions, it has been determined that approximately 400 percent over the limit is used by kilogram hectare, or liter hectare in the case of fungicides. This has harmful effects on agriculture, the environment, and health of the population. [end recording]

In addition, Gonzalez reiterated his criticism over the use of glyphosphate against poppy crops. He said that aerial fumigation must only be used in extreme cases to avoid further damage to the ecosystem.

Paraguay

Drug Control Agreement With Venezuela Ratified

PY2004184092 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Apr 92 p 24

[Text] The executive branch has ratified an agreement with Venezuela on the prevention, control, and repression of the unlawful consumption and illegal traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances. The agreement was signed in July 1991 and has now been ratified by Paraguay through the promulgation of the respective laws.

The document states that the two signatories "promise to jointly harmonize policies and implement specific programs for the control and repression of the illegal traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances and the precursors used to manufacture these drugs."

The two countries "will adopt measures to control the broadcast, publication, advertising, or distribution of any material that may contain visual or subliminal messages, whether audible, printed, or audiovisual that promotes the illegal consumption or trafficking of drugs or psychotropic substances."

Moreover, by the same agreement, Paraguay and Venezuela will exchange "quick and accurate" information on internal tendencies and acts of illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances.

These two countries will also exchange respective internal laws concerning drugs and psychotropic substances and regarding the organization of competent national services that prevent drug consumption and handle the treatment and recovery of drug addicts.

They will also exchange data related to the identification of producers, suppliers, and traffickers who work individually or in association with others, and their modus operandi.

The two countries will also exchange information on imports and exports of substances used in the illegal manufacturing of drugs and psychotropic substances; the volume of operations; the sources of domestic and foreign supply; and tendencies and projections of the illegal consumption of such products to identify possible orders for illegal purposes.

This information "will be provided through official documents stemming from the respective competent national services in both countries. It will be confidential and will never be published," the document states.

Peru

Fujimori Delivers 'Message to Nation' 21 Apr

PA2204040192 Lima Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0301 GMT 22 Apr 92

["Message to the nation" by President Alberto Fujimori at the Government Palace in Lima—live]

[Text] Compatriots: Good evening. Sixteen days ago I addressed all of you to report the important decisions my administration made to ensure the continuity of Peru's historic project and prevent its continued deterioration by the lack of authority, violence, and corruption.

Now, I wish to once again express to the Peruvian people my gratitude and admiration for their permanent commitment to the fatherland. The unprecedented support given to me by the people confirms the heartfelt conviction that moved me in 1990 to enter politics, although I was not a professional politician.

I know the Peruvian people understand perfectly what I mean because the majority of the people share my independent position. That is because the majority of us act as responsible citizens, that is, place national interests above any ideological or partisan considerations.

On 5 April, I told you clearly that there was a political-constitutional blockade operating dangerously within the context of the most serious crisis of our republican history. I also told you it was impossible to continue postponing important socioeconomic changes given the

circumstances. I added that for all those reasons, now more than ever, Peru does not need partial reform, but a profound transformation.

Peru could not and can not continue to be weakened by terrorism, drug trafficking, and corruption. We must strengthen the country through a radical modification of its structures. The Peruvian people have identified fully with my decision. Their nearly unanimous support—between 85 and 90 percent—for the special measures, including the temporary dissolution of Congress and the moralization and reorganization of the judicial branch, National Council of Magistrates, Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees, and the Comptroller General's Office, is what encourages me to move forward, without taking one step backward, along the path of profound change.

It is certainly true that polls do not replace elections. No one has attempted to replace elections. The results of the polls can even be politically manipulated by some polling firms, as happened in 1990 in an attempt to hide the people's preference for my candidacy. Currently, however, the unanimous results, and the fact that these come from the broadest spectrum of polling agencies or companies, grant the polls their credibility. No one has dared to reject the results, given their outright evidence. I repeat that polls cannot replace institutional and legal forms of popular expression; this is not the question. But the fact that these polls reflect the belief and sentiment of the Peruvian people is not the question either. These results are objective, and one must respect popular opinion. In my opinion, the essence of the true democratic attitude lies in respect and consideration of the popular will.

History demonstrates once again that, over and above the political hierarchy's power or influence, it is the people who become—at a crucial time for our nation's destiny—Peru's leading force. The transcendental step taken on 5 April has put on the table, as expected, the nature of our democracy and the urgent need for a more stable and secure relationship between the state and society. These fundamental issues were old concerns that always came up in political and academic debates. But they were barely set out in the 1979 Constitution. We all know or we suspect the reasons why. The order we left behind on 4 April was based on well-known privileges and the obstruction of the true democratization of Peruvian life.

For a long time, the great majorities have made known their constant rejection of those institutions in which democracy should have prevailed and in which it had become a mere formality. This is why over and above defending that formality, which some political sectors are bent on, today we face the need to give way to the people's demand for a true democracy, one that will form part of a new social order. This means that the nation's principles and aspirations, across the board, must be respected and any possibility of manipulation or misuse must be cast out. The people's will has been expressed in such an outright and indisputable manner since the establishment of the emergency government that it cannot be ignored. If we do ignore the people's will, we would be going against history. It is the people, humanity, that forms the base of the state that in the end imposes the rules of the game.

Peru as a whole is committed to promoting representative democracy within the context of noninterventionist principles and respect for the people's right to self-determination. We feel that the essence of the 5 April message has not been understood abroad. To meet this new commitment, Peru attended the OAS foreign ministers' meeting. Peru attended this meeting, convinced and certain that it was representing the people's will. At the OAS meeting, we explained the national situation. We described the reasons that led to the temporary suspension of the constitutional order. We also brought the message, however, of our firm decision to return to constitutionality as soon as possible, with a new judicial base and with renewed institutions that would give true meaning to representative democracy in Peru.

In general terms, we expect the foreign situation to return to normal as days go by and the natural initial distrust wanes. The nature of the measures we will implement will show the world we never wanted and will never establish a dictatorship in Peru. Quite the contrary, the new democratic constitutionality of Peru, a result of the reforms demanded by the people, will make our democracy an exemplary one. When this happens, and I expect it will not take many weeks, our international relations will return to normal.

The normalization on the foreign front will allow us to continue to implement our modern and realistic concept of foreign relations based on an open and competitive economy, rooted in a modern, participative, and truly representative democracy. We hope the evidence of the facts and our gradual achievements will enable the international community to finally understand the special emergency situation in Peru and the real reasons that obliged us to make the decision concerning the events of 5 April.

During the past 20 months, my government has worked alongside its people to reconstruct the country. We left behind all the fears and taboos that tied us to the past. This is a government that has merited and merits the people's support. The people and my government were left alone many times, without the support of traditional politicians, while we worked hard to reconstruct and modernize the country.

After we implemented important structural reforms, the international community even said we were the economic spearhead of Latin America. But many people who say we are going against history today are the same ones who opposed the reforms and our efforts to make Peru a free country with a modern state and to promote investment.

Today, more than ever, Peru needs the commitment of all sectors. Today, more than ever, its national leaders need to earn the respect of the people, who still want to believe. Some worry about the aid and cooperation from international organizations, when only yesterday they insulted these organizations in every way possible. They ridiculed the aid and even asserted it would only have adverse effects on our country. Today they say the contrary.

I do not want to tire you with examples that are well known by the people. Obviously, my intent is not to destroy the political classes, as is rumored, to make the regime look like the devil. My intention is and has always been to put an end to privileges. I believe we have to get to understand each other in Peru. We have to understand each other but without forgetting the people. It is not democratic to consult the people only every five years and then ignore them until the next elections. Popular consultation should be the central institution of a true democracy. The big decisions in Peru have to be made in consultation with the people, the great sovereign. We have to do so as many times as is necessary so not to perpetuate a dictatorial system under the disguise of democracy.

We have seen how totally dysfunctional laws are issued. We have seen how legal rulings ridicule justice.

Who will stop that? Now, the need for profound change is being recognized. It has even been said that those changes were being made, and that in six weeks, it would be possible to make fundamental changes in the legislative and judicial branches, Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees, Comptroller General's Office, and so on and so on.

It is false that all those changes can take place in six weeks. In reality, according to the 1979 Constitution, two legislatures would be necessary. In other words, it would require at least one year to comply with the formalities. You know that many years have passed during which only good intentions have been expressed. The truth is that for 20 months, only approximately 20 laws were approved, which is approximately one per month.

Nevertheless, all that belongs to the past. Now, we also need to rebuild Peru politically. Are political parties well represented by their top leaders? Are trade unions well represented by their top leaders? Is it against political parties and unions to ask them to act democratically internally so they can in turn demand democracy within society? I believe not.

According to the surveys, between 5 and 8 percent of Peruvians are against the government measures. Undoubtedly, a large percentage of militants and supporters of political parties support the government and disagree with their top leaders. The divorce between the leadership and the rank and file is so obvious, it is equivalent to a dictatorship by the former. Top leaders should not monopolize power; they should not stay in power indefinitely; they should not establish dictatorships against youths. If political organizations are so important for the country's democratic life, let us democratize political parties. That is the most sensible thing to do.

I have proposed—and I want this to be clear—I have proposed a national dialogue for peace and development, in which not only political parties, but all social, economic, and cultural groups will participate. That proposal can be enriched, but should not be denied by reducing it to a traditional dialogue between the government and political leadership. This dialogue should ensure that the amendments the people are expecting are duly considered. I hope that realism will prevail between government representatives and a national coordinating commission formed by representatives from all of the nation's active sectors.

We hope this dialogue process will produce agreements on the need to reform the legislative branch, modernize and moralize the judicial branch, reorganize and moralize the National Control System [Sistema Nacional de Control], the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees, the Attorney General's Office, the National Council of Magistrates, as well as rationalize and decentralize the regionalization process.

By means of this national dialogue, the government will receive proposals on the necessary amendments to the 1979 Constitution, as well as a new law on political parties to ensure the real and effective participation of its members in partisan decisions. We will define a new government structure, improve the institutions of representative democracy, identify rules and procedures of participative democracy, including—I repeat—direct popular consultation to support the most important government actions.

We are not destroying democracy, therefore, but cleaning the terrain to build a more solid and advanced democracy. That is what is done with a dilapidated building that threatens its occupants. The date 5 April is a milestone. If what is sought is to take the country back to 4 April, you can imagine the consequences. What regime can be sustained with 80 percent or 85 percent of the people opposed to it, without leading the country to a social explosion of unforeseeable consequences? We would strangely enough be in the face of one of those that go against the will of the people. Rottenness cannot be cloaked with an alleged democratic disguise.

We are thus on time to reconsider and promote a national dialogue over new bases that reflect the legitimate aspirations of the people. Let us begin to build Peru's future now by renouncing special interests. My government will, in any event, defend the sovereign will of the people.

You know that I am a man, not a politician—a man who will let the prevailing political system absorb him. I am actually giving a warning sign to awaken it before it is too late.

I would very much regret to see the youth, who are part of the main political groups, resign their right to make democratic decisions within their parties. This is why I wish to encourage youths. If they made democracy possible by making it a moral demand within their parties, Peru would receive new blood, new political oxygen.

The invitation to the national dialogue is at the same time a government invitation to all sectors of national life to contribute to the great task of building new institutions that are truly democratic in response to the concern of the OAS, for which we have the most profound respect.

The efforts the government is making seek to liquidate the obsolete state and build a modern and technical state. The special measures adopted on 5 April seek to fulfill that objective in the very short term by establishing specific goals to bring us back to full constitutionality in which the real and formal will be in agreement in less than 12 months.

With this in mind, and in complying fully with the goals that inspired my 5 April message, I wish to reveal to all Peruvians the specific timetable approved by the cabinet of the national emergency and reconstruction government to amend the Constitution and restore full democratic constitutionality.

On 5 July 1992, we will hold a popular consultation on the conceptual basis of my 5 April decision, that is, on the advisability of amending the Constitution, including the reorganization of the national Congress, judicial branch, and other institutions. On 31 August 1992, the government will issue a preliminary draft of the amendments to the 1979 political Constitution and start a national debate at a forum we are establishing for this purpose: National Dialogue for Peace and Development.

On 8 November 1992, 8 November [repeats himself], we will, in one single action, carry out a plebiscite to approve the constitutional reforms and have municipal and regional elections, which have already been called. These reforms will include all changes deemed necessary to the structure and operation of the present legislative power, for example.

On 28 February 1993, elections will be held to form the new national Congress. Finally, on 5 April 1993, the new national Congress will be inaugurated and the first legislature will open under the new institutional structure.

My government reaffirms its will and its commitment to work for the country to be governed by a strengthened representative democratic system, based on the separation and autonomy of the powers of government, and upheld by the sovereignty of the people and the universal vote.

My fellow countrymen, there is nothing worthwhile that does not cost effort and struggle, sacrifice and determination. We have a country which we are going to conquer ourselves. We are going to shape it, because, as of now and as never before, we will be the lords of our own destiny. The time has come to redeem Peru, that great nation inside each of us that is yearning to be free. Let us be proud to be Peruvians and expel the pessimism the dark hours have draped over our hearts. Let us look toward tomorrow with the healthy optimism of a triumphant people. Let the memory of those who founded this nation of land and dreams, Peru; let the memory of those who gave their lives for her, light the way to national reconstruction, the road which all Peruvians are determined to follow. We must break away from the past and discover a new country.

Fellow countrymen, I cannot end this message without thanking you for the trust you have given this government, which only seeks to serve the cause of great national interests. Thank you, people of Peru, and good night.

San Roman Calls Fujimori Speech 'Travesty'

PA2204124792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0548 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Lima, 22 Apr (EFE)—Maximo San Roman, sworn in by the legislature as the "constitutional president" of Peru, told EFE that the message delivered on the evening of 21 April by head of state Alberto Fujimori "constituted a travesty for the country."

Since 21 April, two governments have coexisted in Peru, one of them a de facto regime embodied by Fujimori, and the other a de jure government represented by San Roman, starting the moment he was sworn in by the legislative branch as the "constitutional president."

Congress was dissolved by President Fujimori on 5 April, when he staged a coup d'etat with the support of the Armed Forces.

Among other measures established on a "political schedule," Fujimori announced on the evening of 21 April that legislative elections will be held on 28 February 1993 following a series of "popular consultations" to reform the 1980 democratic Constitution.

In his first reaction to Fujimori's speech, which was broadcast on television throughout the country, San Roman told EFE: "This message confirms his dictatorial spirit. It confirms that his actions are not in keeping with authentic democracy."

"Mr. Fujimori," he added, "has invested himself of his own accord with total power. No room has been left for differences of opinion. The schedule he presented is a travesty for the country and the democratic system."

San Roman believes that Fujimori "plans to anoint himself with total powers until 1993... and is using populist methods in an attempt to confuse the people with lies."

"He has already had an opportunity to fulfill the reforms he announced," the new "constitutional president" said,

"especially the reform of the judicial branch, for which he had the consensus of all political parties."

In his message, Fujimori supported the plebiscite system: "It is not democratic to consult with the people every five years," he said, "and then freeze them until the next election."

In Maximo San Roman's opinion, "the raison d'etre of the Constitution is to consult with the people in democratic elections every five years. This is the foundation of democracy, but Fujimori does not understand that."

Fujimori Interviewed About Crisis, OAS Meeting

OW2204022892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1420 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori in Lima by NHK newscasters Kazuma Yamane and Aiko Doden in Tokyo on the "Midnight Journal" program—live; in Spanish with superimposed Japanese translation]

[Text] [Yamane] Today we will interview President Fujimori. Mr. President Fujimori in Lima.

[Fujimori] Now I can hear very well what you are saying in Tokyo.

[Yamane] There are reports that the legislature will today elect Vice President San Roman as president. This would give your nation two presidents. What do you think Mr. President; what attitude will you take toward those moves?

[Fujimori] Needless to say, one nation cannot have two governments. We have one government, and my government is the only one in Peru. The people themselves have been expressing their strong support for me.

[Yamane] However, the current situation in your nation may give the impression to Japan and other nations that two governments could be formed in Peru. What do you think?

[Fujimori] There is in fact only the one government in Peru. Just a while ago, Vice President Garcia Garcia assumed the presidency unilaterally. Such an assumption of the presidency can never be recognized. The United States itself has said that the sole government in Peru is that of President Fujimori.

[Yamane] Mr. President, what steps and actions are you going to take against these moves?

[Fujimori] I intend to carry out politics just as I have done so far. The second vice president of my government claimed 10 days ago that he was the president of Peru. Lately, the first vice president of my government has asserted that he is the president. Their claims and assertions are of little significance.

[Doden] In Peru right now the legislature has been dissolved and the Constitution remains suspended. Responding to this situation an OAS delegation arrived in Peru on 20 April and is set to talk to you. The OAS has demanded that democracy be restored and the declaration of the state of emergency be revoked. How do you plan to deal with these demands?

[Fujimori] The OAS delegation arrived in our country with a very clear goal. I declared four days ago that my government will continue to take the position that it has so far taken. I also explained our future plans to our people. In other words, I explained to our people that my government will build a totally new system and write a totally new constitution. I intend to address the defects of the old Constitution and revamp the judicial system.

[Yamane] If talks are held between you and the legislature under the auspices of the OAS, is there a possibility that you will talk with legislators?

[Fujimori] This evening, I will meet the OAS delegation. I intend to brief the delegation on my government's views. There will be no difficulty for me in talking to the delegation. I want to talk to the delegation about how to build a genuine democracy in Peru. The Peruvian people are asserting that they no longer want to return to the situation before 5 April.

[Yamane] Then, you have no intention of sitting at the table and having a dialogue with legislators.

[Fujimori] Representatives of my government are set to talk with them.

[Yamane] Mr. President, you were on our interview program on 18 March. Had you resolved at the time to declare the state of emergency on 5 April?

[Fujimori] I told Japanese reporters about this, but I cannot give you the details of why I declared the state of emergency. I will give those details later, perhaps after June 1995.

[Doden] You have talked about rebuilding your nation. Do you have any schedule for restoring the function of the Congress and rewriting the Constitution? Do you intend to talk to the OAS delegation about this schedule?

[Fujimori] I will meet with the delegation this evening from 2000 to 2100, Lima time. At the meeting, I will brief the delegation on the schedule.

The basic goal of the 5 April declaration was to rewrite the Constitution. I intend to rewrite the Constitution as soon as possible. I intend to rewrite the Constitution within one year and hold general elections.

[Yamane] Mr. President, I believe that you badly need aid from other nations to help rebuild your nation. But many nations are now saying they will suspend aid to Peru to signal their opposition to your declaring the state of emergency. Do you think you will be able to rebuild your nation under these circumstances?

[Fujimori] I would like to explain the current situation, the pre-5 April situation, and our plans to rebuild Peru. Nations plagued by corruption in their judiciary systems cannot continue to exist.

[Yamane] Our time is up. Mr. President, thank you very much.

Fujimori Meets With OAS Special Delegation

PA2204003792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Excerpts] OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell held several meetings with various political sectors in an effort to restore democracy to Peru. At this time, the special OAS mission is meeting with Alberto Fujimori, president of the national emergency and reconstruction government, at the Presidential Palace.

This morning the secretary general met with Pedro Mendez Jurado, the former attorney general; a representative of the business sector; and representatives from the Council For Peace. [passage omitted]

The OAS secretary general and the Uruguayan foreign minister spoke with the presidents of the dissolved Chamber of Deputies and Senate, Roberto Ramirez del Villar and Felipe Osterling, respectively.

Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker Miller welcomed the OAS mission on behalf of the Peruvian Government in a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Blacker Miller recording] I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros, the chairman of the OAS commission appointed by the OAS foreign ministers to come to Peru; and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena. I would also like to welcome their advisers and the Uruguayan Ambassador (Mr. Operti).

Allow us, also, to take this opportunity to assure the mission members that they have our cooperation, support, and above all, our most sincere commitment to demonstrate that we, in Peru, are trying to return to constitutional order in the shortest possible time. [end recording]

Fujimori Supporters Gather at Government Palace

PA2104175492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Maritza Lopez]

[Text] Supporters of the national emergency and reconstruction government are gathering at the Plaza de Armas to express their backing of the current regime. At this time, President Alberto Fujimori has come out of the Government Palace and is receiving greetings from dozens of supporters. They have arrived with placards supporting Fujimori. They are also inviting the people to attend a rally at 1800 [2300 GMT] in San Martin Square. The invitation is being made through leaflets being distributed at the Plaza de Armas located in front of the Government Palace. President Fujimori continues to be greeted by dozens of demonstrators who have arrived here even though a few minutes before, the police and Army troops had closed access to the area by pedestrians and buses.

Fujimori Pleased at Support

PA2104233092 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2139 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Interview with President Fujimori by unidentified reporter in Lima on 21 April—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] When will you address the nation, Mr. President? [people shouting: Not one step backward!]

[Fujimori] [indistinct]

[Reporter] At 2030.

[Fujimori] I will not give you my opinion, but please, record and report the truth, without distorting the people's opinion. You can hear what they are saying.

[Reporter] Are you satisfied, Mr. President, with the people who came here to show you their support?

[Fujimori] Well, they are only ratifying once again the identification that exists between the objectives of my government and the Peruvian people.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the attitude assumed by the dissolved Congress?

[Fujimori] You have heard the people say: Not one step backward. There is no return to the situation that prevailed before 5 April.

[Reporter] Has the economy minister resigned?

[Fujimori] There will be announcements tonight.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] Nothing specific.

[Reporter] Can you please give us a brief comment on what Maximo San Roman said?

[Fujimori] I have no knowledge of that.

[Reporter] Are you worried?

[Fujimori] Not at all.

Police Disperse Antigovernment Demonstrations

PA2104222392 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2134 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Ismael Byron Horna]

[Text] Two demonstrations—one in favor and one against the national emergency and reconstruction government—are taking place in front of the Sheraton Hotel, where the OAS commission is lodged. The demonstrators engaged in a fist fight, which was later dispersed by the National Police. The police used tear gas to disperse the antigovernment demonstrators who were irritating the peaceful demonstrators.

Deputy Berta Gonzalez Posada—dressed in black because, according to her, democracy has died—and other American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party supporters headed the antigovernment demonstration. The police had to restrain a group of demonstrators at the entrance of the Sheraton Hotel.

We also want to report that the antigovernment demonstration continues, but it is being repelled by the police, who are trying to arrest some of the people staging serious protest demonstrations against the national emergency and reconstruction government. They are protesting in front of the Sheraton Hotel where the OAS commission is staying. The commission members are watching the demonstration from their windows on the 18th floor.

We are going to expand this report in the next few minutes.

Dissolved Congress Meets To Appoint San Roman

PA2104161592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1557 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] A group of legislators of the dissolved national Congress is meeting at the Bar Association on Santa Cruz Avenue [in Lima]. First Vice President Maximo San Roman is reportedly to be sworn in [prestaria juramento] as constitutional president in this building.

Army Surrounds Building

PA2104163092 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1615 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Live report by Enrique Vidal]

[Text] [Vidal] We are here in front of the home of Vice President Maximo San Roman, who has not yet left for the Bar Association. However, Second Vice President Carlos Garcia Garcia has just left this home.

[Garcia Garcia] Congress has met at the Bar Association. I am going ahead to receive San Roman, who will be accompanied by a commission that has just left the Bar Association.

[Vidal] A commission of legislators is on its way? This is similar to what happened on 28 July when there was a presidential inauguration. First there is a commission that makes the announcement, and then there is a welcoming commission. It is expected that there will be a protocol ceremony here at the home of Maximo San Roman. We will keep you updated.

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 1558 GMT on 21 April adds the following: "An atmosphere of heavy tension prevails this morning in the area of the Lima Bar Association a few minutes before the swearing in of Maximo San Roman as 'constitutional president' before the dissolved Congress.

[Army troops have cordoned off the Bar Association headquarters where the solemn presidential swearing in ceremony is to take place. The Presidency was declared vacant by the closed Congress, which stated that Alberto Fujimori is morally unfit to govern.

[Only legislators, journalists, and some 'special' individuals are being permitted inside the lawyers' headquarters, which has been adapted to serve as the Congressional building due to the closing of the legislative branch headquarters, which is under military guard.

[Security in the area of the central Plaza de Armas, where the Government Palace is located, has been reinforced with at least a pair of armored personnel carriers and other armored vehicles. The streets leading to the presidential headquarters have been closed to traffic.

[Meanwhile, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell continue their meetings with representatives of professional and human rights organizations."]

San Roman Sworn In

PA2104172492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1708 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Enrique Vidal from the Bar Association in Lima—live]

[Text] We are at the auditorium of the Bar Association in Lima where Maximo San Roman Caceres has just been sworn in as president of the Republic before Senate President Felipe Osterling and Chamber of Deputies President Roberto Ramirez del Villar.

Addresses Congress

PA2104174092 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1709 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Speech by Vice President Maximo San Roman after being sworn in as "constitutional president" at the Bar Association in Lima; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] .... I have learned from Peru to appreciate the warmth of work, the reward of honesty, the friendship of its people, and loyalty.

I am a Peruvian from deep inside Peru. I come from a small town that is almost forgotten, enclaved in the Inca area. I grew up in the rural areas among the various jobs of agriculture and cattle raising.

Since I was a child, I have deeply admired the great work done by our ancestors, trying to explain to myself how the Incas were able to control the aggressive nature and

geography of our nation and build (?temples) with their bare hands, dig deep wells to create [words indistinct] and vertical wild plants.

They contributed to mankind such important food items as potatoes, corn, quinoa, [words indistinct], beans, pumpkins, tomatoes, and many more. [applause] [station cuts off transmission]

Urges Military Support

PA2104195692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1826 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE)—Shortly after being sworn in as constitutional president of Peru by the dissolved Peruvian Congress, Maximo San Roman on 21 April urged soldiers to "place themselves on the side of the people" and "at the orders of democratic legality."

San Roman, who was sworn in at the Bar Association because the Congress has been closed since the 5 April coup d'etat, insistently asked the Armed Forces "not to join the dictatorship's battle." At the same time, he offered them better living conditions and security.

The military commanders on 20 April visited Fujimori and afterwards issued an official communique expressing their support and recognizing him as the "sole president of Peru."

In his speech, San Roman did not refer by name to Fujimori, who sponsored the coup d'etat and on whose behalf supporters at that same time were demonstrating in front of the Government Palace in Lima.

San Roman told the members of the dissolved bicameral Congress that "Peru does not need dictatorships. What it needs is more democracy" and "national unity."

No media broadcast the swearing in. Some radio stations limited themselves to broadcasting brief news bulletins on the event.

Struggle on 'Four Fronts'

PA2104235692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2314 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Maximo San Roman has been sworn in as constitutional president of the country at the headquarters of the Lima Bar Association. He said his government will wage a fierce struggle against terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, and inflation.

[Begin San Roman recording] We are facing four simultaneous struggles. The war against corruption, terrorism and drug trafficking, inflation, and underdevelopment. We will struggle on those four fronts.

To face the four wars we need a government of national reconciliation, development, and pacification. To succeed, we need to change our institutions not from the outside, but from within; from within its constitutional order. That task demands imagination and flexibility to ensure these reforms are implemented with the permanent participation of the people, and thus, supported by their legitimacy. [end recording]

Comments After Ceremony

PA2204154992 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Impromptu news conference by Maximo San Roman, after being sworn in as "constitutional president" of Peru, outside the Bar Association in Lima on 21 April with unidentified local reporters—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Will you hold a dialogue with Fujimori?

[San Roman] We will hold a dialogue with all the Peruvian people.

[Reporter] Will you hold a dialogue with the Armed Forces?

[San Roman] We will hold a dialogue with all the Peruvian people.

[Reporter] When will this dialogue with President Fujimori take place? [San Roman does not respond]

[Reporter] When will you announce your government plans?

[San Roman] When the cabinet is sworn in.

[Reporter] When will the cabinet be sworn in? Who are the members of your cabinet?

[San Roman] We are calling on the best experts of our country to help us rule the country.

[Reporter] Is it true you have invited Minister Bolona to take over the Economy Ministry?

[San Roman] We are great friends, but that is not true.

Armed Struggle 'Useless'

PA2204152492 Paris AFP in Spanish 0903 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Madrid, 22 Apr (AFP)—In an interview published on 22 April in the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS, Maximo San Roman, the "constitutional president" of Peru, said that he believes it would be useless to wage an armed struggle to defeat the Shining Path.

"I believe," he said, "the Shining Path is the result of a meager presence or a total absence of the state in the remotest areas. I believe we must promote widespread participation of the general population and residents of the remotest areas in decisions, and in the identification and solution of their problems."

San Roman went on to say "I will lend support so that democracy, which must emerge from the rank and file, will develop on its own."

Having said that he does not believe a military confrontation will resolve the problem represented by the Shining Path, Maximo San Roman insisted: "I believe this government's message should support development and make the people react; they must make the decisions, and render sanctions."

At another point during the interview, San Roman said that he is convinced that support for President Alberto Fujimori "is quite fragile" and that "at a given moment there will be widespread support for Maximo San Roman, the defender of democracy and the Constitution."

Concerning the economic issue, San Roman said: "I believe the economic policy Mr. Fujimori has undertaken...is worthy of respect and should be continued. I will respect the agreements signed within the constitutional framework, I will continue and if necessary step up the process of stabilizing our economy, and even more important, the process of reactivating the productive apparatus."

In his statements to EL PAIS, San Roman did not seem concerned about Armed Forces support for Fujimori, which was expressed in a communique issued by the Joint Command: "The very act of issuing a communique displays weakness; it is an indication that within the Armed Forces there is real concern. I am firmly convinced that when Fujimori's true reasons for violating the Constitution are discovered, the Armed Forces will support the law. I am convinced that reason will prevail over force."

Congress Calls for 'Immediate End' of Fujimori

PA2204031592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0216 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE)—The Peruvian Congress, which was dissolved after the 5 April coup, issued a political statement on 21 April stating that Peru's return to democracy requires the "immediate end" of the government of President Alberto Fujimori.

The statement was announced by Felipe Osterling, president of the Senate, after meeting with the special OAS mission visiting Peru to promote a dialogue to allow a return to constitutionality.

"The solution to the current Peruvian crisis calls for an immediate end of the current de facto government headed by Mr. Albeto Fujimori and his cabinet" and the "recognition of Maximo San Roman as the constitutional president of the Republic," the document stated. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Say Fujimori Regime Is 'Enemy'

PA2204053092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0317 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE)—Shining Path, the armed Peruvian Maoist organization, said on 21 April that the coup d'etat "has made it clear the enemy" is President Alberto Fujmori's regime.

A Shining Path spokesman, who frequently calls the media using a pseudonym, said that on 21 April he attended "incognito" the swearing-in ceremony of Vice President Maximo San Roman as "constitutional president" by the Congress unconstitutionally dissolved by Fujimori on 5 April.

"I had the opportunity to witness incognito the 'buffoonery' of old people speaking nonsense because the only thing they regret is losing their jobs," said the Shining Path spokesman, referring to the legislators who proclaimed San Roman president.

"It is clear that the struggle in this country is between Fujimori and us. All of these 'clowns' (the legislators) have ruled themselves out. The field has been cleared," he added.

He said the Communist Party of Peru, official name of the Shining Path organization, is "already in the last stages of its definition" and that it has been left "face to face with the only power that could prevent the victory of our cause."

He denied the possibility of the Shining Path group forming an alliance with other forces against Fujimori.

"No, no, no, on the contrary. The field has been cleared. The panorama is completely unclouded, but I cannot add anything else. There will be news in the next few days," the spokesman added.

He also said the Shining Path group "is reorganizing itself and is coming up with a new strategy" for Lima, where the armed organization intends to create an "iron belt" around the capital in its densely populated areas of poverty.

The "Shining Path" spokesman said he is not authorized to provide details of the car bomb attacks that followed the coup. The attacks destroyed two police stations, some nearby homes, and the entrance to a military residential area in Lima; six people were killed and dozens of others were injured.

The journalists asked the spokesman, "Who is the enemy?"

"Fuji, not San Roman, is a 'little clown' and this is a last resort, a last attempt to survive," he answered.

The Shining Path group took up arms in 1980, the same day the Peruvians were holding their first elections

following 12 years of military governments. This unleashed a spiral of violence that has killed over 25,000 people.

Military Stages Operation Against Shining Path

PA2204013692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1540 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE)—Peruvian military patrols supported by 800 members of the civilian militias called "Peasant Patrols" [rondas campesinas] liberated 127 Indians of the Ashaninka tribe that were being held by the Maoist rebel group Shining Path. Shining Path was forcing the Indians to work for them.

Junin Department military authorities, in Peru's central mountains, reported the operation began on 16 April and ended on 20 April.

The Ashaninkas had been held by the Shining Path rebels for three months in an area between the Ene and Tambo Rivers in the jungle area of Junin Department.

The source added that most of the rescued Indians are suffering from malaria, tuberculosis, and dehydration.

The military reported the Shining Path rebels escaped during the operation when they realized they were surrounded. The rebels took the healthy Ashaninkas with them. The report added that the group of rescued Indians are 16 men, 39 women, 28 boys, and 44 girls.

In addition, the LA REPUBLICA newspaper reports that approximately 50 Shining Path members entered the town of Palmapampa, in Junin Department, and killed seven of its inhabitants on 19 April.

The newspaper adds that on 20 April, a group of soldiers were ambushed by Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels, who killed five soldiers and injured eight others.

The ambush took place 15 km from La Merced, also in the jungle area of the Junin Department.

Furthermore, the Counterterrorism Division (DIRCOTE) announced the arrest of a group of members of the Shining Path Press and Propaganda Cabinet. The DIRCOTE also reported they raided and searched the printing shop of the Shining Path's clandestine newspaper "EL DIARIO."

The police reported that the printing and circulation of "EL DIARIO" was directed by sociologist Jorge Durand Araujo, arrested on 15 April. Jorge Durand Araujo also maintained contact with Shining Path's cells in the United States and Europe.

Durand Araujo is the brother of Maximiliano Durand, who is currently recruiting in France.

OAS Officials Comment on Progress of Mission

PA2204022692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Rocio Vicente]

[Text] On the first day of the OAS visit to Peru, Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell held several meetings with numerous prominent people. At 0900, they met with Francisco Diez Canseco, president of the Council For Peace and Genaro Delgado Parker [not further identified]. They also met with Pilar Coll, president of the National Human Rights Coordinating Board; and Andres Aramburu, president of the Lima Bar Association. At 1030, the former president of the Supreme Court of Constitutional Guarantees and former Attorney General Pedro Mendez Jurado arrived at the Sheraton Hotel to meet with the OAS officials. Later, Baena Soares and Gros Espiell met with businessmen from the National Confederation of Private Business and the Exporters Association.

Currently, Foreign Minister Blacker Miller is giving a luncheon in honor of the OAS officials at the Torre Tagle Palace [Foreign Ministry]. We have part of Blacker Miller's welcoming words, as well as comments by Joao Baena Soares and Hector Gros Espiell.

[Begin recording] [Blacker Miller] We hope that after this first mission departs, another mission will return sometime after 3 May. We hope this mission agrees with us that the mechanisms have truly been established for this to take place. Hector Gros or secretary general do you want to comment now?

[Gros Espiell] Thank you, I want to make a few very brief remarks. The secretary general and I started by holding several meetings and we will continue with dialogues to assess the true situation. The goal of the UN resolution [words indistinct] is to foster a dialogue that would lead, without any further delay, without any further debate, without any further [words indistinct] to the full restoration of constitutional order. This is the goal, this is the object of the resolution; all our efforts are directed toward this goal. The success of the OAS mission is fundamental, not only for this brotherly nation, which we love so much, but also for democracy's future.

[Blacker Miller] Secretary general do you have something to say?

[Baena Soares] The Uruguayan foreign minister has given a very detailed explanation of the mission's goal and the agenda. We will continue working within the framework of the ad hoc commission. We will return to Washington to present our report and subsequently we will come back on a scheduled second visit. [words indistinct] to Blacker Miller's words, I want to express my warmest greetings to all Peruvians.

[Blacker Miller] Thank you very much for your time. [end recording]

Economy Minister's Resignation Confirmed

PA2204052992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker Miller confirmed the resignation of Economy Minister Carlos Bolona, which he termed a serious loss to the government. The resignation of Roberto MacLean, Peruvian ambassador to the United States, was also made public, while Hugo Garcia, bank and insurance superintendent, had a detached attitude toward the government. Meanwhile, President Fujimori has asked for the resignation of the Central Reserve Bank Board of Directors. We have Minister Blacker Miller's comments.

[Begin recording] [Blacker Miller] Of course, I regret Minister Bolona's resignation. This is a great loss for us.

[Unidentified reporter] [indistinct question]

[Blacker Miller] No, I do not think one must jump to those conclusions. I am very surprised, however, because on 5 April he said he agreed with the situation and that he would remain in the cabinet. Now, on 20 April, he says he does not agree. I believe he is not very consistent in his convictions.

[Reporter] Would you be his successor?

[Blacker Miller] No, I will not be his successor, under no circumstances. What is the question?

[Reporter] Has the president asked for the resignation of the Central Reserve Bank Board of Directors?

[Blacker Miller] I understand that is the case. President Fujimori has asked for the resignation of Jorge Chavez Alvarez, president of the Central Reserve Bank.

[Reporter] He said he will not resign.

[Blacker Miller] I do not know how all of this is going to end, but the executive branch and the government have the authority to ask for his resignation.

[Reporter] Have there been anymore resignations? Has the president of the Bank and Insurance Superintendency resigned?

[Blacker Miller] No, it is not the president, it is the superintendent who has resigned. It is regretful that he is leaving because he is a dedicated and qualified person. I personally regret that he has resigned. Unfortunately, in a process such as the one we are experiencing—and all Peruvians must understand this—each person is free to act. Precisely, democracy is the freedom to chose. Each person must make his own decision; some will leave the government, while others will join the government. The government will call on Peruvians willing to risk everything for their government. These people will accept and they will work for the government. [end recording]

Three members of the Supreme Court of Justice presented their resignations: Supreme Court of Justice President Luis Portugal Rondon, senior member Ricardo [last name indistinct], and Cesar Fernandez Sanchez. Their decision was contained in letters addressed to President Fujimori in which they stated their hope for the swift return to the democratic process.

Superintendent of Banks, Insurance Resigns

PA2204024792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0018 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Hugo Garcia Salvatechi, superintendent of banks and insurance, has resigned from his post. He said he will simply cease carrying out his duties because it is legally impossible to submit his resignation to the Senate.

[Begin Garcia recording] Effective 21 April, I will stop carrying out the duties of superintendent. I have a serious legal problem: I do not know to whom to send my resignation, because I was appointed by the Senate. I cannot resign without violating the Constitution and laws. Within that context, what I am doing is simply prohibiting myself from exercising my duties as of 21 April. According to the hierarchy established by the law, Dr. (Juan Gacelen), the next highest official in the superintendency of banks and insurance, should become acting superintendent. [end recording]

Central Reserve Bank Head Denies Resignation

PA2204042392 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2349 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Jorge Chavez Alvarez, president of the Central Reserve Bank, said the Board of Directors of the Central Reserve Bank has not resigned and that the members have a patriotic obligation to defend the bank's autonomy.

[Begin Chavez recording] Three board members have resigned voluntarily, for personal reasons. After talking to those who have not resigned, I can tell you that the reason is simply because we believe we have an obligation to defend the bank's autonomy. The chairman and board members are the international reserves custodians and are responsible for the circulation of money. Furthermore, despite the fact that I disagree with the Fujimori government's political measures, I have stayed at my post because I believe I have an obligation to safeguard those constitutional responsibilities. [end recording]

The Central Bank president added that he supports the completion of the economic plan so the Peruvian people's skilled work and sacrifice will not have been in vain.

[Begin Chavez recording] I do not defend any party or political plan. I am defending the bank's autonomy. I do it also for the good of the economic plan that we have been implementing for over two years. The plan was created before the Change 90 government took office.

We have worked very hard and I cannot simply ignore the team's efforts or abandon all their work.

Now, you say I have been appointed by the government and confirmed by Congress. The government guidelines do not expressly state that the bank's autonomy will be ignored. The plan is necessary, but not for the people because the people are no longer important. Its importance lies deeper, because it is a plan that has imposed great sacrifices on the Peruvian people. It has cost the technicians that have worked on it and it has generated confidence on the international scene. It cannot be erased overnight. [end recording]

Housing, Construction Deputy Ministers Named

PA2204005492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2357 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] As of 21 April, the new Peruvian deputy housing minister will be Luis Pigatti Prado. He will replace Jorge Caceres, whose resignation was accepted by the government, which thanked him for his services. In addition, Pedro (Medius) Andersen was named deputy construction minister following the resignation of Jorge Segarra Russo, according to a decree published in the official newspaper.

Government Suspends Import Preferential Tariff

PA2204045692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0204 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The government has suspended the preferential tariff system on imported goods from Andean countries. Jose Rafael Serrano, the acting coordinator for the Cartagena Agreement Board in Lima, said the Peruvian decision undermines the entire tariff liberation plan.

Ousted Officials Discuss National Situation

PA2104144892 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Roundtable discussion featuring Roberto Ramirez del Villar, president of the Chamber of Deputies; Felipe Osterling, president of the Senate; and Second Vice President Carlos Garcia Garcia, with journalists Humberto Jara and Mirko Lauer and an unidentified moderator; from the Panamaicana Television studio in Lima; on 19 April—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Mr. Jara will ask the first question.

[Jara] I wish to ask Dr. Ramirez del Villar a question. In the Congress, I have seen him continually seeking a consensus, an agreement, a way out of problems whenever they arose. From this viewpoint, something is very clear for a majority of the Peruvian people. Constitutional order has been disrupted. Something else is true, too. Constitutional order must be realistically restored. From this perspective, my attention has been struck by the fact that San Roman, who spoke a few minutes ago, and some other legislators, have started to add some belligerence in their speeches. I do not see how a solution can be found. Something is true, however. The country wants to have a certain order and a certain institutionality, one that works. To attain this, we need to agree on some points. Do you think assuming a belligerent stand will lead to such agreements?

[Ramirez] I would say this has been my permanent concern throughout my life. I consider a law just a transaction. But a constitution is a transaction of a much higher order. The Peruvian Constitution was approved by all political parties in an assembly specially convened by the president. We have sworn to obey this Constitution because it is the basis for our legality and that of the president. If this basis and legality are disrupted with violence by those bound to respect them, it is difficult to find an intermediate point between violation and illegality.

[Moderator] It is now the turn of writer and journalist Mirko Lauer.

[Lauer] Good evening. I would like to question Senator Osterling. You have been requesting a dialogue, ostensibly for 20 long months. I understand that your requests have not always been granted. Presently, the political highlights include a visit by the OAS delegation, which has underlined the need for dialogue in the country, and Fujimori's 11th hour invitation for a dialogue. My question is: Who could the Congress now talk to about a return to democracy? Who can and who cannot participate in a dialogue, and how would such a dialogue be conducted?

[Osterling] As you pointed out and the country's public knows, Mr. Lauer—several jokes were made by some media people—when I was president of the Senate, I urged dialogue with the president of the Republic. However this dialogue was refused again and again. I wish to underline this. I wanted to talk to seek and find an understanding between the legislative and executive authorities. This would be to find points of agreement, an evidently required national consensus. Fujimori has disrupted the constitutional order. He has not only concentrated executive power upon himself, but intends to control the powers of the legislative and judicial branches as well. This is extremely serious. I emphatically state that I will talk with the constitutional president, with whom I have talked a number of times informally and once or twice formally. I refer, of course, to Maximo San Roman. I will talk with him to find the understanding that Peru so urgently requires. I cannot deny that there are deficiencies in the institutions—judicial authority, legislative authority [words indistinct], and executive authority. However these deficiencies can be corrected through dialogue with San Roman.

[Moderator] Senator Osterling, would you agree that the Armed Forces would be a much more interesting and positive interlocutor for the Congress and democracy than Fujimori?

[Osterling] Fujimori's prestige has diminished as president of the Republic. I do not think we can consider the

Armed Forces a cohesive force in the presence of a coup. I hold the Armed Forces and the police in high regard. I do not believe the great majority of them support the coup. They had a harsh experience in 1968 and feel no inclination toward participating in a political adventure to which a group of officers have apparently led them. The Armed Forces exist to obey the civilian government. The Armed Forces are not an interlocutor. Dialogue can be held between constitutional authorities, the legislative and the executive authorities, the latter represented in this particular instance by Maximo San Roman, president of the Republic. The Armed Forces must obey the Constitution. They are not an interlocutor and, finally, must obey the decisions of the executive and legislative authorities.

[Moderator] Humberto, before your second question I would like to know whether Mr. Ramirez Del Villar and Mr. Garcia Garcia agree with Senator Osterling's position in rejecting the possibility of holding a dialogue with Mr. Fujimori who has, in fact—even if rather unclearly—called for a dialogue on 1 May.

[Osterling] Excuse me. Mr. Fujimori has convened the political parties, but not Vice President Carlos Garcia Garcia, nor the president of the Chamber of Deputies, nor the president of the Senate because he is unconstitutionally ignoring one of the branches of government.

[Moderator] That was a brief answer for the other two guests.

[Ramirez] It was also very clear. I completely agree with what Osterling has said.

[Moderator] What do you think Mr. Garcia?

[Garcia] I agree as well. We must state the fact that if a nation, a country, does not have a constitution to guide its destiny, then it becomes an uncivilized country. Therefore, I believe that a dialogue must be held within the constitutional framework and I believe that he who is outside of the constitution cannot hold dialogue with those who hold a constitutional position.

[Moderator] Humberto Jara will ask the next question.

[Jara] There is a point that I believe is interesting. It is this search for legality and an institutional system, which I believe is valid for a civilized country. However, it is a fact that legality has been broken and it seems that the legality that existed before 5 April was not shared by the country, at least in some respects. If this is so, would it not be better to seek a more realistic legality, more in accordance with what the people want and demand. Instead of harping on what was broken, why do you not start searching for that institutional system the country wants?

[Ramirez] I would say that until a very short time ago, not only was the Constitution totally heeded, but it could also be hailed as an exemplary constitution on the American Continent. It was the first to include basic human rights. It even started by stating those rights. This was something that had never been done before.

Second, it was a constitution bred within our problem, a hybrid between president and legislature. It is not so because it was created this way by any theoretician, but because it was born from reality. This joining of two apparently opposing positions—those held by the president and the legislature—started in 1850, during a struggle between the Congress and the executive branch in which the Congress, little by little, won over the executive branch. First by questioning and later by censure.

This process, which evolved into the current Constitution, is the path that is being followed by the regimes of France and other countries. Therefore, from a constitutional point of view, our Constitution was an example because it found a feasible solution.

[Moderator] Humberto Jara, editor of the Sunday supplement of the EXPRESO newspaper has a question.

[Jara] Mr. Ramirez says the Constitution is a well-made instrument, but I would like to remind you all that it is the Constitution that has been in force since 1979. Over that period, a thousand things have happened in this country and the rest of the world. Two subversive groups emerged in Peru, the nation went through hyperinflation, the world changed radically, the so-called end of the ideologies took place, and many other things happened that are too numerous to mention.

Within that context, nationally and internationally, how can we think that the Constitution of 1979 is still in good standing? I believe that to that point there is a serious breach between what the members of the Congress say and what the country demands.

[Ramirez] This Constitution assigns to the president the following powers: chief of state, chief of government, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and also head of public administration.

The executive branch has never had a greater accumulation of power. Furthermore, only by exercising the authority granted to the executive branch could the president have done anything that was constitutional, and there is one other detail—the two chambers met and gave him carte blanche for a year so that he could rule with complete liberties.

Do not forget that the executive branch issued three or four decrees and then issued 127 decrees on the last day of that term. Therefore, the government had everything it needed to rule without the chambers ever blocking its actions. Only at the very end, when the flood of last minute decrees were presented, did the legislative branch question eight or nine of the 127 decrees. Those were modified, and the decree on the pacification process, which is the basic to resolving the problem of terrorism, was approved with the knowledge and even the consent of the executive branch.

Therefore, those decrees on the pacification process that were issued by the chambers were issued with complete support from the executive branch and we know that they were not only discussed by the minister who was negotiating, but that the minister even requested 24 hours to discuss it with the president.

Therefore, all of the powers he requested were granted to him. There has not been, therefore, any alleged blockade or unjustified abuse by the Congress with regard to the powers granted to him. That is completely false.

[Moderator] A question by Mirko Lauer.

[Lauer] I would like to address a question primarily to President Garcia Garcia, but I would also like to hear the other guest's views. Somehow, I would like to respond obliquely to my colleague Jara's remarks by saying that in reality, there is someone who has gone way beyond Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] in creating a new subversive situation, and that person is Engineer Fujimori, who presently is somehow involved in this league of individuals who desire the establishment of a new state based on the power of weapons.

I say this because I am under the impression that while it is right to defend the Constitution, it is now being done in a somewhat defensive manner, responding to offensive political needs, with initiatives such as those that Senator San Roman has just now expressed. My specific question is, what do you believe will be the opposition's next political step in response to the situation that has emerged? In other words, to return to the subject of the dialogue, you have said that you cannot hold a dialogue with Engineer Fujimori nor do you want to. Are you talking among yourselves? Is there unity, at present, among all the parties that support the Constitution and democracy? Do you plan to form a group at any time within and outside the legislature, somewhat paralleling the struggle for a constitution, freedom, and democracy that we all applauded in Eastern Europe?

[Garcia] First of all I must add an element to the answer given by Dr. Ramirez del Villar. In this government's 20 months of existence, Engineer Fujimori never presented a proposal to reform the Constitution. The Constitution gives him the power to do so. In fact, representatives from the different political parties agree on and desire a dialogue with the constitutional government, so to speak. Why? Because they feel that they were mistreated, vilified, and attacked by Engineer Fujimori while he was in office. They feel as if they are hierarchies that represent nothing and political parties that represent no one, and that they are being attacked. They feel that it is impossible to talk with someone who has mistreated them throughout his time in office.

[Lauer] Mr. President, to the extent that you have been described as legalists, does the situation not call for constitutional reform somewhat in the spirit of Cromwell, so that the president would never again have this kind of power?

[Garcia] I would say one thing, Mr. Lauer. The Constitution, as it is, establishes sufficient checks and balances for every branch to work autonomously, but never in useless confrontation. What is happening in the world today is precisely the recapitalization of popular representation against strong regimes. This is the general rule. In Peru we are in a state of involution, we are attempting to disregard the elements that represent our popular (?sovereignty) in favor of a dictatorship. Even worse than this and what worries me very much, is that this dictatorship is no longer talking only of going against this legislature, but has questioned the existence of the legislature, saying that in over 140 years of existence in Peru it has proven useless. In other words, an attack is being launched on the very foundations of national sovereignty, and this—regardless of where it happens—is described as totalitarianism, and totalitarianism of the worst kind. It cannot be said now that Mussolini or Hitler, or any other dictators stated their true intentions from the very outset. No, they began with other plans and then hardened their positions until they reached totalitarianism. In Peru they are saving time by openly declaring very [word indistinct] totalitarianism.

[Moderator] My colleague has used the term legalist. We could also refer to an excess of formalism which, perhaps, is what the people question about the legislature's work. Would you not be excessively formal if you ignored a de facto situation and say that you are not willing to talk with a usurper or anyone who violates the Constitution?

[Ramirez] I would not describe that simply as formalism. It may be that in public law a formality and a basic issue are of equal value because a violation can be apparent or real. It is precisely the Constitution that establishes guarantees for (?all of us). It is the rule of the game for all of us. Therefore, we cannot violate the Constitution and simply say that we are going to write another one. Who would write the new one? Are we to write political constitutions as they were written in the past century, when the man who carried out the revolutionary coup would issue a constitution favorable to himself? No. That method never proved successful.

[Moderator] Our discussion with our guests has concluded.

Labor Groups Issue Communique Condemning Coup

PY2204021692 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Apr 92 p 11

[Excerpt] Private sector national labor federations have issued a joint communique strongly condemning the coup d'etat staged by President Alberto Fujimori, "who attempts to establish a civilian-military dictatorship in our fatherland."

The CITE [Intersectorial Confederation of Public Employees] nas also made its position known. CITE Secretary General Felix Martinez Suasnabar demanded a return to the democratic system "because one of the

coup's purposes is to continue the policy of mass dismissals of public employees."

Labor leaders are planning street demonstrations in defense of the constitutional system and to protest the suspension of labor and other democratic rights. The CITE has convened a general strike for 23 April. CTP [Confederation of Peruvian Workers] Secretary General Juan Luna Rojas has called for a grand march on 30 April "to express our condemnation of Fujimori's coup and to celebrate Labor Day."

The joint communique "condemning Fujimori's self-inflicted coup" is signed by the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), the CTP, the Confederation of Autonomous Peruvian Workers (CATP), and the Federation of Workers of the Peruvian Revolution (CTRP). [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Parties Reject Suspension of Ties With Peru

PA2104174492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2312 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Caracas, 20 Apr (EFE)—Venezuelan opposition deputies on 20 April rejected the controversial decision by the government of President Carlos Andres Perez to suspend diplomatic relations with Peru in the wake of the unconstitutional coup d'etat by President Alberto Fujimori on 5 April.

Christian Democrat Paciano Padron of COPEI [Social Christian Party]—the same party to which Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti belongs—deplored the fact that the political parties and the other countries of the region were not consulted with on this decision.

Padron, who heads the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Policy Commission, noted that the ruling party, Democratic Action, was not even consulted.

Padron said: "Worse is that the countries of the international region to which we belong were not consulted, so that Venezuela would not be the only one to make a such decision, going against what was agreed upon at the OAS."

The deputy added: "If no other country follows suit, Venezuela will be completely isolated, looking ridiculous, which is why the parties must express their opinion about the advisability of this suspension."

Padron attributed Perez' decision to his "eagerness to play a protagonist and leading role" and to the "cronyism" that exists between him and former Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

Deputy Teodoro Petkoff of the Movement to Socialism (MAS), the country's third largest political force, also called as wrong the decision by the Perez administration. He said Perez lacks the moral authority to judge the incidents in Peru.

Petkoff recalled that, according to polls, Perez does not have the popular backing that legitimizes power in democratic systems. But, he said, despite that, Perez insists on continuing his mandate until February 1994, instead of resigning, heeding calls for him to resign.

The Venezuelan president, whose popularity crumbled in the wake of the 4 February military rebellion, has limited his public appearances to the point of not attending "The President of the Republic" classic at La Rinconada Race Track on 19 April.

Moreover, a Caracas newspaper published the results of a poll conducted by Sociodata, Incorporated today. According to this poll, 72.3 percent of Venezuelans agree with the actions carried out by President Fujimori.

This sympathy for Fujimori, sympathy also expressed for the Venezuelan rebel military officers, shows, according to experts, that the people are fed up with political leaders who, protected by a "formal democracy," cause the system to deteriorate, use the country's wealth to their own advantage, and increase the people's poverty.

Patrols Increased on Border With Colombia

PA2104221292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1510 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] Caracas, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)—It was reported on 20 April that Venezuela increased its patrols on its border with eastern Colombia after rebels attacked an oil plant in Venezuela 18 April.

Deputy Interior Minister Edmundo Egui Luna said: "The Venezuelan Government is watching this series of events that has been taking place near the border and, for that reason, we will be watching for any other events."

On 18 April, members of Colombia's Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) attacked an oil well in the Arauca region in eastern Colombia.

Luna said groups of civilian and military forces were activated on Venezuela's southwestern border to prevent incursions or attacks by Colombian rebels.

Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa said the attacks against Colombian oil drilling installations affect Venezuela, because rivers that have their head waters in Colombia and flow through Venezuelan territory become contaminated.

He added that the Caracas government has been an important player in the search for peace in Colombia. Venezuela was the setting, between June and November 1991, for the dialogue between the Colombian Government and the CNGSB.

Ochoa ruled out the possibility of eventual attacks against Venezuelan oil drilling installations carried out by local subversive groups.

Human Rights Secretary Announces Petition Drive

PA2104221192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Report by Milagros Martinez in Caracas]

[Text] Enrique Ochoa Antich, Committee for the Defense of Human Rights secretary general, announced on 20 April that a petition drive has started for approving a referendum and constituent assembly. According to Articles 28 and 52 of the draft general reforms to the Constitution, the committee must gather 1,000 signatures for the first case and 500,000 signatures for the second. The first would be a consultative referendum and the second a referendum per se.

The call for the referendums is mandatory once the signatures are submitted. No government branch may oppose it. Both referendums can be executed simultaneously with the consultations on general constitutional reform if a political agreement is reached among all political and social groups. Approving the reforms will depend on such an agreement.

[Begin Ochoa recording] Everything seems to indicate the country wholly supports the idea of holding elections ahead of schedule. But the decision should not be made by Congress, the president of the Republic, or the parties; instead, the people should decide—through a referendum—if they want to hold general elections ahead of schedule and if they want to reduce the president's term of office. We should gather the necessary signatures to immediately summon the constituent assembly, because it will be able to make much more radical and deep reforms than the ones being studied right now. [end recording]

The campaign to collect signatures will include the cooperation of the Radical Cause Party, the Movement for Socialism, and several student organizations.

Guyana

Drug Cooperation Plan With Venezuela Announced

FL2104215192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 21 Apr 92

[CANA editor's note: "Article credited to Guyana Public Communications Agency"]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana (GPCA) [Guyana Public Communications Agency] April 18, 1992—Army, police, and health officials of Guyana and Venezuela last week announced agreement on a joint three pronged plan of action to combat drug trafficking and abuse. The agreement was reached at the first technical meeting of the Guyana/Venezuela joint commission on drugs which was held in Georgetown from April 8-10, 1992. At this meeting it was agreed on the importance of bilateral collaboration to prevent, control, and suppress the consumption of and the illegal traffick in narcotics and psychotropic substances, not only in the two countries but in the region as a whole.

The Guyana and Venezuelan delegations were led by the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, David Hales and Venezuela's ambassador to Guyana, Enrique Peinado Barrios respectively and included officials from the police, miltary, and home affairs ministries of the two countries.

Under the agreement reached, the two sides will establish closer links in all operations relating to the sharing of intelligence on drug related activities as well as direct contacts between the drug enforcement agencies of their two countries. It was also agreed that the two countries will share data concerning the identification of drug traffickers, their associates, and methods of operation.

There will also be collaboration in the training of suitable personnel in drug eradication, detection and suppression techniques, and in matters relating to border patrolling. Another aspect of the agreement is the decision by Venezuela to assist Guyana to improve its capability to treat and rehabilitate drug dependent persons by studying a request for suitable drugs and equipment from the Guyana Drug Rehabilitation Unit.

During the meeting, the question of reciprocal assistance in the tracing, freezing, and forfeiture and confiscation of the assets of convicted drug offenders in their respective jurisdictions was discussed and it was agreed that other related and important issues would require legal experts on both sides to have more informed discussions to work out a programme of further cooperation.